

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

AGENDA

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 12th, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

CEC: 320 Bloomington Rd W Aurora Ontario
Board Room

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Questions?

Please complete this [form](https://forms.gle/o7CuzGWgg82DL6SE7) to submit any questions

Link:

<https://forms.gle/o7CuzGWgg82DL6SE7>

Live Stream Link:

<http://bit.ly/YCDSB-TV>

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

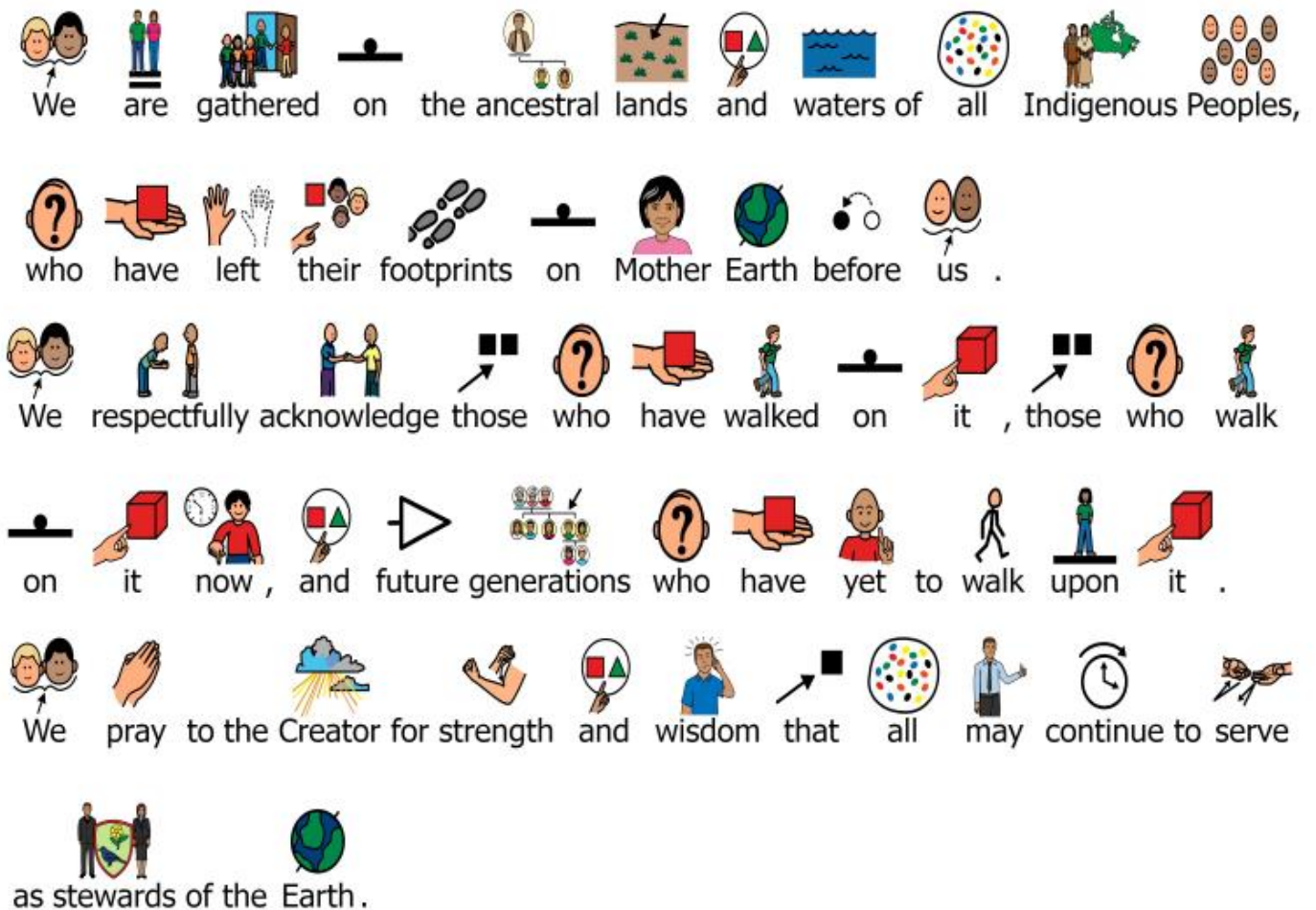
We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us. We respectfully acknowledge those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk on it. We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

	Time	Item	Resource
1.0	7:00	Call to Order	A. Grella
2.0	7:02	Prayer Land Acknowledgement	A. Grella D. Legris
3.0	7:04	3.1 Roll Call 3.2 Approval of New Materials	A. Grella
4.0	7:10	Moment of Inspiration Presented by the Student Services Physical Management Team	C. Ruffolo-Defilippis and L. Visconti
5.0	7:15	Approval of Agenda of February 12, 2024	A. Grella
6.0	7:16	Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2024	A. Grella
7.0	7:17	SEAC Report to Board Report 2023:02 – January 2024	A. Grella
8.0	7:18	Information Items 8.1 Board Meeting Date: February 27, 2024	A. Grella
9.0	7:19	Correspondence PVNCCDSB – SIP Funding	A. Grella
10.0	7:20	Presentations/Discussions 10.1 Sacred Heart Vince's Market Field Trip 10.2 Student Services updates	A. Miraglia, T. Wighton, A. Trimarchi D. Candido
11.0	8:20	Business Arising	A. Grella
12.0	8:25	Action Items	A. Grella
13.0	8:30	Association News	SEAC Representatives
14.0	8:45	Items for Future Agenda YRT – Transit Training Play Day PA DAY	A. Grella
15.0	8:55	Next Meeting: March 4, 2024	A. Grella
16.0	9:00	Adjournment	A. Grella



Father we thank you for an opportunity
To gather here today,
We pray that this meeting is successful,
productive, and blessed.
Holy Spirit guide us during our discussions,
And give us wisdom concerning
the issues that we face,
That they remain in the best interest in our students
We gather here today to serve.
Lord we give you the glory for what we accomplish.
Amen

Land Acknowledgement



Land Acknowledgement by YCDSB's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Steering Committee
 adapted with PCS by Alana Miraglia and Elaine Marshal in collaboration with SLP
 Department

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Guided by Gospel Values and Catholic Virtues, in partnership with home and Church, we educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

MINUTES of the SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A regular meeting was held in a hybrid format in person at CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google Meet on **January 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	N. Byrne*, A. Connolly*, S. Gatti*, A. Grella, D. Legris,* J. Man*, N. Welch*, J. Wigston, M. Xue*, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	J. Akleh*, M. Marcello*, C. Sandig*
Administration:	D. Candido, L. Lausic*
Regrets:	J. Gamboa, N. Lai,
Recording:	C. Mong*
Guests:	S. Biafora, <i>Special Education Teacher, YCDSB</i> F. DiNardo*, <i>Retiree, YCDSB</i> M. Iafrate, <i>Vice Chair of the Board, YCDSB</i> K. Nguyen, <i>Special Education Teacher, YCDSB</i> M. Oyston, <i>Special Education DH, YCDSB</i> F. Puma, <i>Parent, YCDSB</i>

*Denotes virtual attendance

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

3.1 Roll Call

3.2 Approval of New Material

Nil – No New Material

4.0 Moment of Inspiration

The presentation showcased 32 students across YCDSB who communicate with augmented communication devices participated in a Christmas Jingle.

5.0 Approval of Agenda January 15, 2024

Motion– Agenda approved with an additional item 14.0 MASCE (Wigston/ Legris)

6.0 Approval of the Minutes December 11, 2023

Motion - Minutes approved with clarification provided for Information item 8.2 (Byrne / Xue)

7.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2023:02 – **December 2023**

8.0 Information Items

8.1 Board Meeting Date

The date of the next Board Meeting is January 30, 2024

9.0 Correspondence

HPEDSB SIP Funding

Chair Grella provided clarification: Special Incident portion claims support students with extraordinary needs in a 2:1 model. The funding is based on claims submitted by schools. HPEDSB is advocating for more funds to support students across the province.

10.0 Presentations / Discussions

10.1 Brew Crew

- This presentation highlighted a program the SAH school community participates in. Through the Brew Crew students develop their God given talents and can practice their pre-vocational skills. The success of the program has allowed the school to bring real world learning experiences to students with special needs.

10.2 Rare Disease Day- February 29, 2024

- Ideas shared on behalf of CORD Canada to celebrate Rare Disease Day celebrating diversity and inclusion. Additional information found on pages 3-7.

10.3 Student Services Department updates

- Superintendent Candido presented a recap of programs and services delivered by the Student Services department over the last month. Additional information found on page 8.

11.0 Business Arising

Nil

12.0 Action Items

Nil

13.0 Association Reports

Autism ON: [March Break Reimbursement Fund](#)

Community Living: [E connector](#)

Easter Seals: [New Educator Inclusion & Accessibility e- Learning](#)

14.0 Items for Future Agendas

- YRT Presentation
- PEP Presentation
- Vince's Supermarket

15.0 Next Meeting: Monday February 12, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. in a hybrid format over Google Meet and at CEC Board office, 320 Bloomington Rd W Aurora ON

16.0 Motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

Meeting adjourned (Xue / Zhou)

CELEBRATING
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
RARE DISEASE DAY: FEBRUARY 29, 2024
FEBRUARY 28 on non-leap years
(pages 1-5)

This can be a day about acknowledging Diversity and Inclusion. A day to bring awareness to the community and all students regarding the challenges that children with rare diseases experience and how to include them in student interactions.

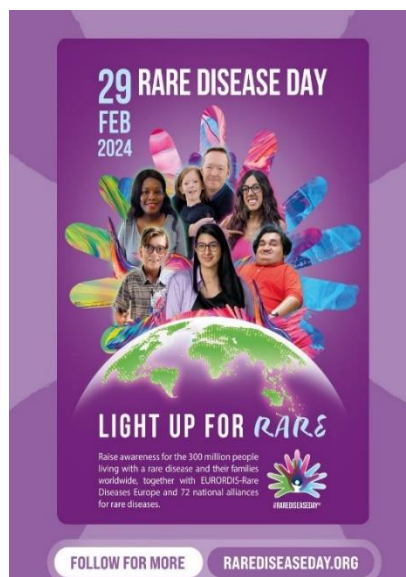
Suggestions for Rare Disease Day:

- this event could be posted in the Parent Newsletter
- bill board outside of every school have a notification:
“Diversity and Inclusion: Rare Disease Day February 29, 2024
- Rare Disease Day is recognized on February 28th, except during leap years when it is recognized on February 29th, commemorating a rare day for people who have rare disorders
- students and staff could either wear striped clothing, or pink, blue, green, purple clothing, which are the official colors of Rare Disease Day
- at the February school assembly, show short video
“Show Your Stripes” (it’s available on Youtube)
- Scholastic story book “Fast Friends by Heather M. O’Connor and Claudia Davilla (for primary grades)
- students in primary grades could learn to sign the song “The More We Get Together” as most children are familiar with signing “more” and this song involves sign language
- student created posters depicting the Hand Logo, striped zebra, or any art work using stripes or the official colors (pink, blue, green, purple)

Have class discussions about how to include these special needs students, many children have not experienced being around special needs children and don’t really feel comfortable or know how to engage them.

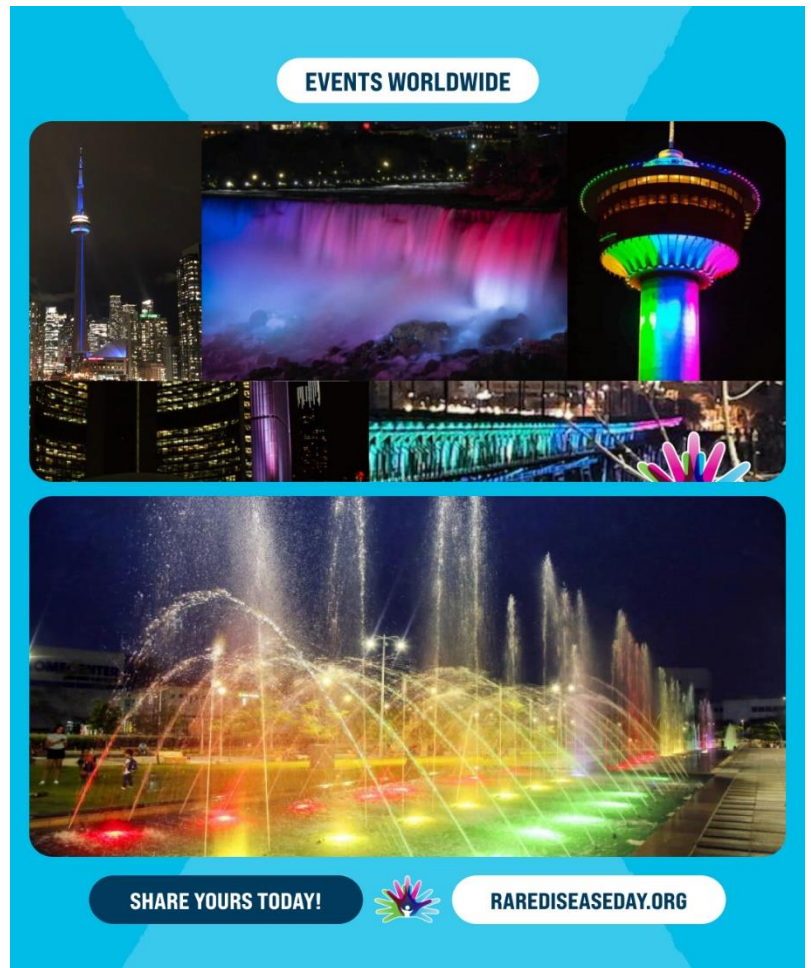
Continue discussions about activities that special needs students would enjoy engaging in. For example:

- singing songs with them
- reading story books to them
- playing ball games
- any kinesthetic activity
- technology activities and educational games
- continue discussions about students paying attention to body language and facial expressions, particularly to students who are non-verbal, as they will respond using body language
- discuss that often special needs children need time to respond, to be patient and wait for a response



Share Your Stripes Video on Rare Disease Day (You Tube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b926EI8GR-8>



*A few of the famous
landmarks supporting
RARE DISEASE DAY-
February 29, 2024*

These landmarks will be illuminated on Feb. 29th 2024 with the colors: pink, blue, green, purple

Toronto CN Tower

Toronto City Hall

Toronto 3D sign at Nathan Phillip Square

Niagara Falls (10:00pm – 10:15pm.) I have included a live cam link (https://www.earthcam.com/canada/niagarafalls/?cam=niagarafalls_str) that you can share, so that families and friends can see the Falls illuminated

Vaughan City Hall

Edmonton Bridge

Edmonton Tower

Calgary Tower

British Columbia Legislature

British Columbia Place

Vancouver Convention Centre

Sales Of Light Vancouver

Science World Vancouver

Olympic Cauldron Vancouver Convention Centre

**Tentative: all of the TV screens in the GoodLife Fitness Clubs in Ontario
CP 24 Breakfast Television**

Useful links:

<https://www.rarediseaseday.org/downloads/>

<https://www.rarediseaseday.org/friends/canadian-organization-for-rare-disorders/>

10.3 Student Services Updates (January)

We have finalized our timeline for migration from our current IEP Engine platform to RISE, a new and exciting software that integrates intelligent workflows and enhanced efficacy for all stakeholders, throughout all processes that Student Services manages. This migration will take place in May of this year and we are currently developing a comprehensive training plan for all future users.

Our Early Facilitation Meeting for parents of students with special needs entering schools will take place this month.

Our ILIT program will change over to a second set of schools in order to support students with difficulties in reading. The elementary special education team will also be hosting special education teachers in our upcoming Family of Schools to provide support with math gap closing and literacy programs.

YCDSB Speech and Language Services will be once again offering groups for high school students who have existing augmentative communication (AAC) tools. This is a five-week program that will be run during the regular school day by a Communicative Disorders Assistant and/or a Speech-Language Pathologist. The group is an opportunity for secondary students to practice using their AAC communication tool during conversation, short games, and small group activities.

A concern was brought forward that the application of an extra 5% to the final grade of AP face to face courses was not equitable as not all schools across the province had this practice. As we are always turning our mind to ensuring that our practices are equitable, we underwent this review. Many parents have reached out to us, to Principals of AP schools and to Trustees expressing their concerns that this AP multiplier would be cancelled. This was not quite the case as we needed to complete the review. The AP Multiplier review process: we met with AP Principals, SSLT, AP teacher via google form, the AP College Board and the Ministry of Education to review the assessment practice of the AP Multiplier.

We have finalized the review as we consulted with Curriculum to ensure that the practice is in line with our interpretation of Growing Success. The full report will be shared at the Jan 30 Board Meeting indicating that the practice of the AP multiplier will remain in effect here at YCDSB.

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 2024: 03

To: Regular Board Meeting

January 30, 2024

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on **January 15, 2024** in a hybrid format in person at the CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google meet.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	N. Byrne*, A. Connolly*, S. Gatti*, A. Grella., D. Legris, J. Man*, N. Welch*, J. Wigston, M. Xue*, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	J. Akleh*, M. Marcello* C. Sandig*
Administration:	D. Candido, L. Lausic*
Regrets:	A. Cabraja, J. Gamboa, N. Lai, E. Strano
Recording	C. Mong*
Guests:	S. Biafora, <i>Special Education Teacher, YCDSB</i> F. DiNardo*, <i>Retiree, YCDSB</i> M. Iafrate, <i>Vice Chair of the Board, YCDSB</i> K. Nguyen, <i>Special Education Teacher, YCDSB</i> M. Oyston, <i>Special Education DH, YCDSB</i> F. Puma, <i>Parent, YCDSB</i>

**Denotes Virtual attendance*

1. ACTION ITEM(S): NIL

2. CORRESPONDENCE:
HPEDSB SIP Funding

3. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATION:

- Brew Crew
- Rare Disease Day
- Student Services Department updates

4. ASSOCIATION REPORTS: NIL

5. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

- PEP Presentation
- YRT Presentation
- Vince's Supermarket

6. NEXT MEETING: February 12, 2024

A. GRELLA, CHAIR, SEAC

January 15, 2024

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
15th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

delivered by email: Minister.edu@ontario.ca

RE: Supporting Students with Special Education Needs

Dear Minister Lecce,

The special education budgets in many school boards across the province are overspent year after year, yet the needs of students are not always being fully met. This is not because school-based personnel fail to recognize the needs of these students. It is because there is insufficient staff in the schools to implement programming effectively. This leads to growing gaps and frustration for the students as they try to deal with individualized challenges without the support they need. Increased levels of support would most certainly decrease acute behavioural and mental health struggles. Moreover, consistent levels of support for our students early in their schooling would potentially avert later, more significant struggles.

As per our mandate, the PVNC Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee is actively making recommendations on matters impacting the establishment, development, and delivery of special education programs and services - specifically focusing on providing recommendations to update the funding formula that would help serve our students with special education needs. We would ask you to explore three recommendations specifically tied to financial resources in order to update the funding formula to better serve these students. In addition, we have provided 2 other recommendations for review, that the SEAC committee believes, if adopted, would benefit students with special education needs. Please review and consider the following recommendations:

Many students with special education needs are not able to access a school bus in the same way most children do. This could be because of self-regulation issues, anxiety, physical disabilities, etc. This is an equity issue. They deserve the same access to transportation that the students who are able to take the regular school bus have. The current funding for this issue is tied to students taking smaller buses. For boards with a large geographical area and rural components, such as ours, these small buses are

unavailable; we must rely on taxis and vans to transport these students. The 196 students in our Board with special transportation needs generates \$98,000 of funding while costing our school board \$1,256,000 - a gap of well over a million dollars.

Supervision of elementary students during lunch and recesses is largely the work of educational assistants in many school boards. In PVNC Catholic, elementary teachers complete 80 minutes of supervision per week, as well as working with students, contacting parents, preparing lessons, extracurricular activities, etc., during these scheduled student break times. This results in the bulk of the supervision completed by educational assistants. Our school board currently receives \$300,000 per year to cover all elementary supervision for the year. We encourage you to review the actual cost to school boards in this area, including the cost of covering lunch and breaks, and fund at a more realistic amount.

A portion of funding for special education is often linked to the SIP process and formal testing and diagnosis of students. This means that only students with severely unsafe behaviour or clear medical diagnoses would qualify for enhanced funding. Formal testing of students who are clearly struggling academically, behaviourally, or socially but are not a significant safety risk often takes a significant period of time to occur. There are long waiting lists in school boards for psychometric testing. This results in students with clear needs not being tested, and hence funded, until at least the junior years of elementary school. As a result, we encourage you to continue additional funding for assessments and enhance the allocation of targeted funds through SIP.

Furthermore, this lack of funding is especially apparent for children entering kindergarten. We see students arriving to ELKP with communication, toileting, behavioural and cognitive lags with little or minimal community support in place. It often takes months to work with parents/guardians to begin exploring the child's needs and development through medical and community-based professionals. With no enhanced funding for these students, personnel has to be pieced together to assist these students. This lag in funding results in insufficient personnel to meet the needs of these students during their first five to seven years of schooling. Without the appropriate level of funding for the help they require, these students often fall further behind academically and socially. We encourage you to examine this funding in order to help all students reach their potential. Though early identification of language and math issues is a step forward, it is unrealistic to believe that remediation and intervention can happen without the additional personnel to implement these programmes.

Currently, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health often operate within their own silos, with communication and collaboration of services being extremely difficult if not impossible in some cases. Increased collaboration and communication, including fostering the involvement of

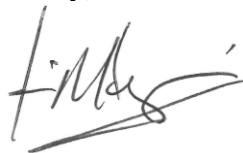
community professionals with specific expertise to support students from their respective discipline should be a priority in our system. Seamless coordination and communication between each respective Ministry would allow a more timely, comprehensive, and effective delivery model.

Students with caregivers who struggle with transportation, booking/ keeping appointments, mental health impediments, etc. would have those barriers removed. Priority care to students and families would more effectively be delivered with enhanced coordination and communication by all.

Another area where the lack of integration between ministries negatively impacts our students with special education needs is when they prepare to transition from secondary school into the workforce. Targeted funding for these students, beyond traditional school co-op placements, could lead to greater connections and training through the involvement of community organizations. Additionally, if employers were incentivized to invest in these students and retain them as employees following the completion of placements or volunteer hours, this could lead to an increase in opportunities for employment for these individuals as they transition into adulthood.

Our committee believes that updating funding and addressing gaps in coordination and communication to deal with the challenges mentioned above is crucial to the success of our students and the balancing of the special education budget. We encourage you to work to address these needs in order to allow each of our students to benefit fully from their experience in Ontario's school system.

Sincerely,



Kevin MacKenzie
Board Chairperson



Shawna Belcourt
Special Education Advisory Committee Chairperson, Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board

cc. Chairs of Ontario School Boards' Special Education Advisory Committees



YCDSB SEAC Meeting Dates

2023-2024

September 18, 2023

October 16, 2023

November 13, 2023

December 11, 2023

January 15, 2024

February 12, 2024

March 4, 2024

April 8, 2024

May 6, 2024

June 17, 2024

Meeting date changes made in red



Learning Together in Christ
Engaging. Enabling. Empowering