

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 **June 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	N. Byrne*, A. Grella, S. Leckey*, D. Legris*, J. Man*, J. Wigston, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	J. Akleh*
Administration:	A. Cabraja, L. Lausic, J. Powers, E. Strano
Regrets:	A. Carter, A. Connolly, N. Welch, M. Xue
Recording:	C. Mong
Guest Presenters:	L. Barbieri, <i>Sr. Coordinator, Behaviour Resources, Student Services, YCDSB</i> S. Bondy, <i>Transition Planner/Work Experience Teacher, Student Services, YCDSB</i> L. Colangelo, <i>OT/ SEA Planner, Student Services, YCDSB</i> H. Gardner-White, <i>Behaviour Resource Worker, Student Services, YCDSB</i> A. Martini, <i>Behaviour Resource Worker, Student Services, YCDSB</i> A. Miraglia, <i>Secondary Program Consultant/ Itinerant Work Experience Teacher, Student Services, YCDSB</i> N. Whitebread, <i>Special Education Consultant, Student Services, YCDSB</i>

*Denotes virtual attendance

CALL TO ORDER / ATTENDANCE

1.0 Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

2.0 Roll Call

3.0 Approval of New Material NIL

4.0 Approval of Agenda June 9, 2024 Motion – Agenda approved (Wigston / Byrne)

5.0 Approval of the Previous Minutes Motion - Minutes approved (Byrne / Legris)

6.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes NIL

7.0 SEAC Report to Board Motion – Report Received (Byrne / Zhou)

8.0 Moment of Inspiration

Challengers Baseball is a program that provides an opportunity for children with cognitive or physical disabilities to enjoy the full benefits of participation in baseball at a level structured to their abilities. Baseball games are played in a fun, safe environment where no score is kept. Able-bodied "Buddies" are assigned (one on one, where possible) to each participant. These Buddies assist the Challenger players with their involvement in the game. Pushing wheelchairs around the base path and assisting players in how to hold the bat and swing a few of the ways the Buddies offer a better experience for the participants in Challenger Baseball. The program teaches athletes the core skills in baseball teamwork, communication, determination, resiliency, inclusion, support and courage. Challenger baseball ensures all

athletes ensures athletes of all abilities have the opportunity to play in a fun and safe environment where they learn to become independent, build confidence, and create last friendships with their peers. As a Jays Care Affiliate School, Blue Jays sent specialized equipment kit and program manual.

Canadian Martyrs CES has been doing Challenger for at least 5 years now. It is run every Thursday over the lunch hour for approximately 12-15 sessions by dedicated classroom teachers, special education teachers and education workers. This year the Canadian Martyrs Challenger baseball players were invited down to the Rogers Center on May 8 to participate in a challenger baseball session right on the field at the Rogers Center. The pictures and videos you are about to see are CMS students players in Challenger Baseball at school and on the field at the Rogers Centre.

This video highlights ECPP supports made available. The programs are voluntary collaborative partnership between the York Catholic District School Board and the York Region District School Board with children and mental health agencies and hospitals. The school board provide education component, and the community agencies provide the care and treatment. For the 24-25 school year we have been able to support 240 students with on gong intake.

9.0 Presentations / Discussions

9.1 SEAC budget

- Budget manager K. Scanlon highlighted the budget process, Education funding formula and Special Education grants and Special Educational Financials.

9.2 Supports within Student Services

- Members of the Professional Student Services Personnel highlighted the various departments and roles dedicated to supporting students learning and well-being.

9.3 Life after high school Transition Symposium

- On May 8, 2025 the Student Services department hosted the Life After High School Transition Planning Symposium for families and students with disabilities utilizing funds from the Ministry Grant. There were over 200 guests in attendance. The feedback received at the end of the event was positive.

9.4 Yes I Can awards

- The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) has recognized the accomplishments of thoughts of students since 1982 through Yes I Can Awards. Each year, teachers, support staff, administrators and board staff are invited to nominate students who have demonstrated outstanding growth. In addition, educators, staff, parents and community member who teach, support and inspire the students with exceptionalities are recognized. This year we celebrated at Cardinal Carther CHS, there were over 800 people in attendance and 220 students were recognized. Congratulations to all award recipients!

9.5 Integrating Assistive Technology into Student's Learning

- This presentation highlights the partnership between the half time SEA Consultant and SEA Technology Planner to provide support to Special Education Teachers Classroom teachers and student services staff in integrating assistive technology into students' learning plan.

9.6 Special Education Plan

- Superintendent Powers shared the finalized Special Education Plan incorporating the SEAC feedback and input.

9.7 Student Services Monthly Update

- Superintendent Powers presented a recap of programs and services delivered by the Student Services department over the last month, see page 4

10.0 Action Item(s)

Nil

11.0 Discussion Item(s)

Nil

12.0 Information Item(s)

12.1 SEAC Meeting Dates

12.2 SEAC Terms of Reference

12.3 Helping your Child find their Voice

12.3 Association News

Autism ON: Updates, Summer Program
Community Living: E Connector
LDAYS: Monthly Report
Items Received (Byrne / Zhou)

13.0 Notice of Motion

Nil

14.0 Future Item(s)

Nil

15.0 Next Meeting: Monday September 15, 2025 @ 6:30 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 8:40 p.m.

Meeting adjourned (Legris / Zhou)

Secondary Special Education updates

On Tuesday June 3rd, our annual secondary Special Olympics event was held at Our Lady Queen of the World Catholic Academy. Approximately 190 athletes with disabilities competed in track and field events. Many thanks to Chair Crowe and Director DeFaveri who welcomed the athletes during the opening ceremonies and Vice-Chair Iafratte and Trustee Wigston were there to cheer the students on as they competed in the various events.

Congratulations to all of the athletes and thank you to the Student Services staff who organized the day and to the Teachers and Education Workers who supported the student athletes.

Elementary Special Education updates

Starting tomorrow our exceptional Elementary students will begin participating in Integrated Track and Field. Students travel with their peers to their school Track and Field day either at York University or St. Maximilian Kolbe, and will participate in 3 events. These include, a 50 M run/Walk, a Bean Bag "Shot Put" throw and a Long jump event at the same time as their school peers compete in events around the track.

We have completed over 100 IPRCs for students beginning in the PACE program in September. We have added an additional classroom to the program for 2025-2026 due to the high number of applicants this year.

This month we are concluding observations and meetings for Early facilitation students who have been participating in Welcome to Kindergarten in all Elementary Schools. We look forward to welcoming approximately 120 new exceptional learners to YCDSB in September.

Special Education Consultants have begun reviewing and revising training sessions for all Special Education Teachers that will be new to the role in September. They are also in the process of developing training for all Special Education Teachers that will be using Lexia Power Up and Core 5 in the fall.

Mental Health updates

Over the past month Mental Health department hosted 4 parent engagement nights around vaping awareness for parents and youth

They supported the Luke 4:18 symposium focusing on student wellbeing

Hosted teacher wellness sessions

Presented at the board meeting at the May 27 board meeting Services offered through the tiers

And are currently preparing for summer well being camps with community partners and planning for the 25/26 school year.