

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 **May 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: N. Byrne*, A. Carter*, A. Connolly*, A. Grella, M. Iafrate*, S. Leckey*,
D. Legris*, J. Man*, M. Xue*, Y. Zhou*

Association Representatives: J. Akleh*, E. DiFalco*

Administration: A. Cabraja*, L. Lausic, J. Powers, E. Strano*

Regrets: N. Welch, J. Wigston

Recording: C. Mong*

Guest Presenters: M. Liberatore, *Itinerant Work Experience Teacher, Student Services, YCDSB*
A. Miraglia, *Secondary Program Consultant/ Itinerant Work Experience Teacher, Student Services, YCDSB*
S. Bondy, *Transition Planner/Work Experience Teacher, Student Services, YCDSB*

*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 April 7, 2024 Motion— Agenda approved (Iafrate / Legris)

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

6.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes NIL

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

8.0 Moment of Inspiration

St. Joseph the Worker Prayer Card Pep Art Contest: This moment of inspiration highlights the artwork submitted to the YCDSB Pathways to EmployABILITY Program (PEP) Art contest to visually depict St. Joseph and Jesus working together and answering the call of their vocation. The artwork will be featured on prayer cards that will be shared with classes. The winner of the contest is Ashley from St Brother Andre CHS, congratulations Ashley!

Agri Tech Workshops Pilot Project: STEM MINDS has partnered with Boreal Farms to bridge the skills gap and foster interest in AgriTech through a variety of programs YCDSB Pathways to EmployABILITY Program (PEP) students had the opportunity to participate in 3 workshops: Introduction to Agri Food Sector and growing food at home, Foundations of

vegetable seeds and soil, Fundamentals of plant growth and maintenance. Each student received a certificate to add to their portfolios and visited the Boreal Farms.

9.0 Presentations / Discussions

9.1 Special Education Plan

- Superintendent Powers shared the draft Special Education Plan, the committee will review and share their feedback before it is finalized.

9.2 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 3

10.0 Action Item(s)

Nil

11.0 Discussion Item(s)

Nil

13.0 Information Item(s)

12.1 SEAC Meeting Dates

12.2 Letter to Minister Calandra – Pressing Needs to Substantially Increase

Provincial funding for K-12 Students with Disabilities/Special Education Needs

12.3 Association News

Easter Seals: Red Shirt Day

LDAYS: Upcoming Programs & Workshops

Items Received (Byrne / Welch)

14.0 Future Item(s)

Nil

15.0 Next Meeting: Monday June 9, 2025 @ 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 7:52 p.m.

Meeting adjourned (Xue / lafrate)

9.2 Student Services Monthly Update

Secondary Updates

In an ongoing effort to facilitate a successful transition to post-secondary studies (college/polytechnic/university) for grade 12 students who are currently receiving Special Education support, Student Services has developed the [Accessibility Supports in Post-Secondary Education](#) online module. This module provides students and their parents/guardians with step-by-step guidance on registering for and navigating accessibility supports at the post-secondary level. Parents/guardians have received this module and they are highly encouraged to review it as their children prepare to leave high school and begin a new phase of their educational journey. This module will also be shared with all grade 12 students currently receiving Special Education support.

Our annual secondary Special Olympics Track and Field Day has now been confirmed to take place at Our Lady Queen Of the World CHS on May 29th with a rain date of June 3rd. Approximately 200 secondary students from all YCDSB high schools will be competing in a broad range of adapted track and field events.

I am also very pleased to share that the 2025 YES I CAN awards will take place at Cardinal Carter CHS on May 22nd starting at 4pm. This event has been hosted by YRDSB in the last few years so we are very happy to be bringing the event back to our board this year. Many thanks to the YCDSB staff who have submitted a large number of student and staff nominations for these awards.

After a great deal of planning over the last few months,, the Life After High School Transition Planning Symposium is set to take place this Thursday here at the CEC for Parents/Guardians of students with intellectual disabilities. This symposium will host various community day programs and agencies that offer programs and services to students with disabilities after they graduate at 21. We have approximately 140 parents registered to attend this exciting event.

Elementary Special Education:

As the year is winding down for schools, our Program consultants have been busy planning for our Early Facilitation students that will be starting school in September. Program Consultants and our Multidisciplinary Teams have been actively involved in this process.

With the board approval of ME Hubs for the 2025/2026 school year, the Elementary team has been planning for it's implementation by visiting schools to determine the best locations and school groupings. We are currently working on creating programs and curriculum for the various locations.

We have placed all of our successful PACE Candidates in classes for September and due to a great number of requests from students from outside YCDSB who meet criteria for the Gifted program, we will be opening one more PACE class at St. Charles Garnier. This allowed us to offer places to 14 students whom we would have had to turn down because classes were completely full. We continue to receive requests for the PACE Program for September from grades 5-8.