



YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Monday, September 15, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Catholic Education Centre

320 Bloomington Rd. West, Aurora, ON. L4G 0M1

Live Stream Link: <http://bit.ly/YCDSB-TV>

Questions? Please complete this form to submit any questions

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 upon it. We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

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1. OPENING PRAYER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	
2. ROLL CALL	
3. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL	
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8.a Fit body, fit mind summer camp Presented by: V. Ip, S. Prajapati, P. D'Ugo	
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10. ACTION ITEM(S)	
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- 14. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**
 - 14.a Call for Association Presentations
- 15. **NEXT MEETING**
 - 15.a October 20, 2025
- 16. **ADJOURNMENT**

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who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us .

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as stewards of the Earth .

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 **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.

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 2024: 07

To: Regular Board Meeting

June 17, 2025

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on **June 9 2025** in a hybrid format in person at the CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google meet.

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
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**Denotes Virtual attendance*

1. ACTION ITEM(S): NIL

2. CORRESPONDENCE: NIL

3. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATION:

- SEAC Budget
- Supports within Student Services
- Life After High School Transition Symposium
- YES I Can!
- Integrating Assistive Technology into Student's Learning
- Special Education Plan - Final
- Student Services Monthly Update

4. ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

- Autism ON – Monthly update, Summer Programs
- Community Living – E Connector
- LDAYS: Monthly Report, Upcoming programs and Workshops

5. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: NIL

6. NEXT MEETING: September 15, 2025

A. GRELLA, CHAIR, SEAC



With 17 years of classroom experience, Dr. Faith offers a practical, research-informed perspective that resonates with both educators and families.

Join Us on Wednesday, October 15th at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Presentation

This presentation introduces the fundamentals of Executive Function and how they impact learning, behavior, and emotional regulation. Topics include building Executive Function skills, coaching strategies at home, self-regulation, emotional validation, and the difference between routine and novel tasks. Geared toward parents and educators, the content is useful for supporting learners of all ages, especially those with ADHD or learning disabilities.



Dr. Laurie Faith

Dr. Faith is an Assistant Professor (teaching stream) at the University of Toronto, where she is an award-winning teacher of courses in special education, adaptive instruction, and executive functions. Through the department of Applied Psychology and Human Development, she conducts community engaged research to better integrate development, remediation, and scaffolding for executive functions in the school day. Her website, www.activatedlearning.org, hosts a wide range of resources for parents and teachers. Dr Faith's book, *Executive Function Skills in the Classroom Overcoming Barriers, Building Strategies* (Faith, Bush, Dawson, Diamond, 2022; Guilford Press) is a bestseller; she is currently working on a book for early years caregivers and teachers. Dr. Faith's work is grounded in 17 years of classroom teaching.

Registration

For more information please contact our office:
info@ldays.org or **(905) 884-7933 extension 1.**

REGISTER HERE



Scan to register!



SEAC Reps - LDAYS Monthly Report - September 2025

Upcoming Event (Please see attached flyer)

LDAYS Virtual Presentation: Fundamentals of Executive Function

Join us for a 1-hour presentation on the fundamentals of Executive Function and how they impact learning, behaviour, and emotional regulation. Topics include building Executive Function skills, coaching strategies at home, self-regulation, emotional validation, and the difference between routine and novel tasks. Geared toward parents and educators, the content is useful for supporting learners of all ages, especially those with ADHD or learning disabilities.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Faith is an Assistant Professor (teaching stream) at the University of Toronto, where she is an award-winning teacher of courses in special education, adaptive instruction, and executive functions. Through the department of Applied Psychology and Human Development, she conducts community engaged research to better integrate development, remediation, and scaffolding for executive functions in the school day. Her website, www.activatedlearning.org, hosts a wide range of resources for parents and teachers. Dr Faith's book, *Executive Function Skills in the Classroom: Overcoming Barriers, Building Strategies* (Faith, Bush, Dawson, Diamond, 2022; Guilford Press) is a bestseller; she is currently working on a book for early years caregivers and teachers. Dr. Faith's work is grounded in 17 years of classroom teaching.

Presentation Details:

- **Date:** October 15th, 2025
- **Time:** 7PM
- **Location:** Zoom
- Click [here](#) for more information and to register

Upcoming Programs and Services: (Please see attached Flyer)

Social Skills 6-Session Program

Our Social Skills Program is designed to help children with Learning Disabilities (LD) and/or ADHD build essential social and emotional skills in a fun, engaging, and interactive environment. Facilitated by accredited social service workers and based on the proven PEERS® curriculum, this program focuses on improving communication, conflict resolution, emotional regulation, and self-esteem. Children will also develop valuable skills like self-advocacy, stress management, and how to handle bullying. The program is for children ages 7-12 who may struggle with social interactions, self-confidence, or peer relationships. With small group sizes and a supportive, positive atmosphere, this program offers the perfect opportunity for your child to gain confidence, make friends, and thrive socially.

Location, Dates and Times:

- Richmond Hill (LDAYS Office) Mondays starting October 20th to November 24th from 5:30-6:30pm
- Newmarket (Bogart PS) Tuesdays starting October 21st to November 25th from 6:00 to 7:00pm

For more information, contact Nina at nina.shwaizer@ldays.org or (905)-884-7933 ext. 5. or visit our website: [Social Skills](#)

Homework & Beyond

This **fully subsidized, 6-week program** combines homework assistance with social skills development in a welcoming, drop-in format. Tailored to support students aged 10 to 12*. The program fosters both academic progress and personal growth.

Why Homework & Beyond?

- **Individualized academic support** to help students excel in school.
- **Social skills enhancement** to build confidence and improve interactions.
- **A flexible and supportive environment** that meets the unique needs of each participant.

Location, Dates and Times:

- King Township (1970 King Road) Thursdays starting October 2nd to November 6th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- Richmond Hill (9030 Leslie Street Unit 216) Wednesday starting October 1st-November 5th from 4:00pm - 6:00pm

*Students outside the 10-12 age range are welcome to register! We will schedule an intake call to ensure the program is the right fit for their needs.

Spots are limited, so don't wait! Secure your child's place in Homework & Beyond by registering today: [Homework and Beyond Spring 2025 - Registration Form](#)

For more information contact Alicia at 905-884-7933 ext. 6 or alicia.carter@ldays.org or visit our website: [Homework and Beyond](#)

Level Up Tutoring

Our Level Up Tutoring Program offers personalized numeracy and literacy assistance, specifically designed for students in grade 3 to grade 7 with learning disabilities or ADHD. With one-on-one virtual sessions, our experienced tutors help your child build confidence, enhance study habits, and develop crucial academic skills in both math and reading. Sessions are tailored to meet your child's unique learning style, ensuring a more enjoyable and effective learning experience. Enroll now to secure a spot and let's make this school year the best one yet! Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Reading Rocks and Jump Math

Our Reading Rocks and Jump Math are individualized virtual intervention programs designed for students aged 8-14 who are significantly behind in literacy or math due to diagnosed learning disabilities. **Reading Rocks** focuses on enhancing reading skills through tailored instruction and motivational tactics, while **Jump Math** emphasizes foundational math skills and confidence-building through 1-to-1 or small group sessions and engaging activities. Both programs run for eight weeks, meeting twice weekly, with a fee structure that includes options for subsidies. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for JUMP Math and Reading Rocks.

SoAR

The SoAR Program is designed for students in Grades 7-8 or Grades 11-12 diagnosed with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD, helping them develop vital life skills for academic and vocational success. The program includes tailored sessions focusing on personal development, self-advocacy, stress management, study strategies, and essential job skills, empowering

participants to navigate their transitions into high school and post-secondary education or the workforce. Through engaging discussions and activities, students enhance self-awareness and build practical skills to achieve their goals confidently.

The program can be facilitated in a group setting or one to one. Groups are held in class for 4 sessions with 6 participants per group.

Location, Dates and Times:

Richmond Hill (LDAYS Office at 9030 Leslie Street Unit 216) Wednesdays starting November 12th to December 3rd from 5:00pm to 6:00pm

Click [here](#) for more information and to register for **SoAR Elementary**. Click [here](#) for more information and to register for **SoAR High School**.

LD 101 Information Sessions

LDAYS is proud to offer our informative and engaging LD 101 educational presentations, designed to provide valuable insights into learning differences. Our 1-hour, in-person sessions are available for schools and can be tailored for staff meetings, assemblies, or as part of professional development for teachers and students. We work closely with schools to create an interactive and informative experience that helps deepen understanding and foster inclusivity for all learners. Whether you're looking to educate teachers, empower students, or engage parents, LDAYS has the expertise to make a meaningful impact.

Don't hesitate, call us today at 905-884-7933 ext. 1 or email info@ldays.org to book a speaker and take the first step in promoting a more inclusive, supportive learning environment at your school!

Top inquiries from parents:

- Dealing with Emotional and Behavioural Regulation
- Dealing with LD and Generalized Anxiety
- Summer retention of learning

Thank you for your ongoing support, we appreciate all of the hard work you do!



RESERVE
YOUR SPOT
TODAY!

Space is limited

This program is
facilitated in office
10 participants
6 weeks

Register Here



For more information please contact

Alicia Carter 905-884-7933
ext. 6 alicia.carter@ldays.org

This program is currently
being offered at a
subsidized fee of \$100

After School Program: Homework & Beyond

A tutoring and social skills hybrid program.

Homework & Beyond is a partially subsidized drop-in program for students ages 8-12 with learning disabilities. It provides academic support and engaging group activities designed to enhance communication skills, recognize individual learning styles, and build self-regulation strategies—all in a supportive environment.

What to Expect

- **When:** The program runs twice a year, offering six-week sessions in both the fall and spring.
- **Where:** Richmond Hill and King City locations available.
- **Personalized Support:** Tutors and social skills facilitators work with students in a 1:3 ratio.
- **Homework Help:** Bring schoolwork for extra guidance on challenging topics.
- **Skill-Building Activities:** Enjoy fun, educational games that promote teamwork, problem-solving, and social development.