



**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Monday, March 2, 2026

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.

Pages

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. OPENING PRAYER | |
| Lord, as we meet today, guide our discussions and decisions.
Grant us the wisdom to see the best path forward
and the humility to listen to one another.
May our efforts reflect integrity and Purpose
Amen. | |
| 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | |
| 3. ROLL CALL | |
| 4. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL | |
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| 9.a Social Time at SJW!
Presented by: G. Ferrigni | |
| 10. PRESENTATIONS | |
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Presented by: A. Carter | 8 |
| 10.b Mental Health Department Mid Year Presentation
Presented by: M. Prinzo | |
| <u>Link</u> | |
| 10.c Student Services Monthly Update
Presented by: J. Powers | |
| 11. ACTION ITEM(S) | |

- 12. **DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**
- 13. **INFORMATION ITEM(S)**
 - 13.a Easter Seals 11
 - 13.b LDAYS Monthly Report 12
 - 13.c Community Living York South
E Connector
- 14. **NOTICES OF MOTION**
- 15. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**
 - 15.a Easter Seals Presentation (April)
 - 15.b Best Buddies (May)
 - 15.c Bocce Tournament (Spring)
- 16. **NEXT MEETING**
April 13, 2026 at 6:30pm
- 17. **ADJOURNMENT**

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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
MINUTES
of the **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Monday, February 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: J. Wigston, A. Grella, A. Connolly, Y. Zhou, N. Byrne, J. Man,
M. Bujan, A. Carter, D. Legris

Absent with Notice: N. Welch, S. Leckey, M. Rennie, S. Carnovale

Administration: J. Powers

Recording Officer: C. Mong

Guests: J. Chan, Behaviour Analysts, YCDSB
S. McGuire, Teacher at St Julia Billiard, YCDSB
T. Panniculum, Teacher at St Julia Billiard, YCDSB

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. ROLL CALL

4. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL

THAT the new material be approved as presented.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: A. Connolly

Seconded by: N. Byrne

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):

Moved by: N. Byrne

Seconded by: A. Connolly

THAT the Minutes of January 10, 2026, be approved as presented.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

8. SEAC REPORT TO BOARD: 2026-03

Received by: J. Wigston

Seconded by: N. Byrne

9. MOMENT OF INSPIRATION

This presentation showcased the Human Body Medical Symposium hosted by the Grade 5/6 PACE class from St. Julia Billiard. Students engaged in a scientific inquiry unit exploring common diseases. Through research, discussion, and creative presentations, students developed a deeper understanding of how the human body functions and what occurs when systems are not working properly. The unit culminated in a Medical Symposium, where students presented their findings to fellow students and parents.

10. PRESENTATIONS

11. ACTION ITEM(S)

12. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

12.1 After school Secret Agent Society (SAS) - Calling all Cadets Presentation

This presentation provided an overview of an engaging multimedia program designed for students in Grades 3–6. The program equips children with strategies to support a range of social-emotional challenges, including difficulties with friendships and managing emotions. Through espionage-themed activities, participants explored and developed skills in emotion recognition, emotion regulation, problem-solving, and social skills.

12.2 Student Services Department Update

Superintendent Powers presented a recap of programs and services delivered by the Student Services department over the last month.

13. INFORMATION ITEM(S)

13.1 Community Living York South

13.2 Easter Seals Update

13.3 LDAYS updates

14. NOTICES OF MOTION

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

15.1 LDAYS Presentation (March)

15.2 Easter Seals Presentation (April)

15.3 Best Buddies (May)

15.4 Bocce Tournament (Spring)

16. NEXT MEETING

17. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:25pm.

Moved by: D. Legris

Seconded by: N. Byrne

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 2026: 04

To: Regular Board Meeting

February 24, 2026

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on **February 23, 2026** in a hybrid format in person at the CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google meet.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	A. Grella, D. Legris, A. Connolly, N. Byrne, A. Carter, J. Wigston, J. Man, M. Bujan, Y. Zhou
Administration:	J. Powers, L. Cipollone, L. Lausic,
Regrets:	S. Leckey, N. Welch
Recording	C. Mong
Guests:	S. McGuire, <i>YCDSB Teacher</i> T. Paniculam, <i>YCDSB Teacher</i> J. Chan, <i>YCDSB Behaviour Analyst</i>

1. ACTION ITEM(S): NIL

2. CORRESPONDENCE: NIL

3. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATION:

- St Julia Billiard Curriculum Connects, Human Body Medical Symposium
- After school Secret Agent Society (SAS) - Calling all Cadets Presentation
- Student Services Department Updates

4. ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

- Community Living: E-Connector
- Easter Seals Association Update

5. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

- Easter Seals Presentation
- LDAYS Presentation
- Mental Health Program updates
- Best Buddies
- Bocce Tournament

6. NEXT MEETING: March 2, 2026

A. GRELLA, CHAIR, SEAC



LDAYS • Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe

The right to learn, the power to achieve

Presented by Alicia Carter

✉ alicia.carter@ldays.org

☎ 905-884-7933 x 6



Can you read this...?

One it ten people have
 Is a 14 year old girl
 It can be hard to diagnose
 because you can't see it
 It's invisible
 It's a learning disability
 A child with LD grows up
 to work with LD
 who then becomes
 a adult with LD

This is what reading may look like for a student that has a learning disability that affects writing, such as dysgraphia.



Who We Are

- **Mission:** To provide leadership in Learning Disabilities advocacy, research, education and services, and strive to advance the full participation of children, youth and adults with Learning Disabilities (LD) in society.
- **Vision:** To assist individuals with Learning Disabilities achieve their full potential.
- **Founded in 1976** through a grassroots movement of parents and educators advocating for students struggling in traditional education systems
- Expanded services across **York Region and Simcoe County** and became **LDAYS in 2023**

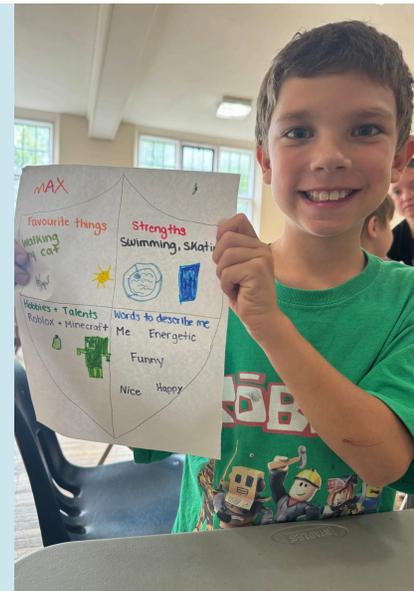
 **LDAYS • Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe**
The right to learn, the power to achieve

About Learning Disabilities

- Neurological differences that affect how the brain processes information
- Lifelong and often invisible
- Not related to intelligence or motivation
- Can impact reading, writing, math, memory, organization, and processing speed
- **Most common disability in Ontario classrooms**

More Than Academics:

- Affects confidence and mental health
- Impacts peer relationships and school engagement
- Can lead to anxiety around learning
- Influences long-term outcomes (graduation, employment)



Say the color not the word

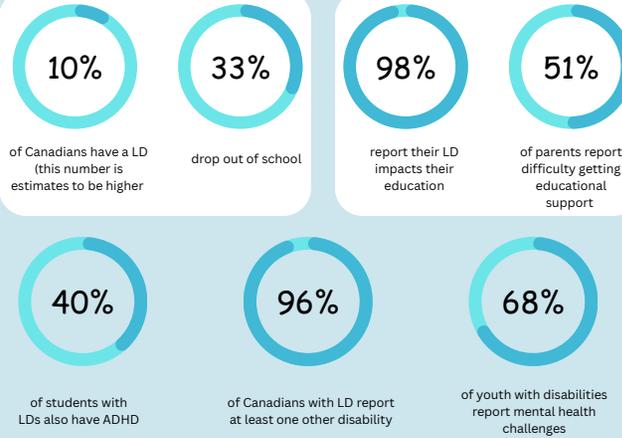
Blue	Green	Yellow
Black	Red	Green
Red	Green	Red
Purple	Blue	Orange
Orange	Yellow	Green
Blue	Red	Purple
Green	Blue	Yellow

This activity demonstrates how processing interference can make a simple task feel difficult.

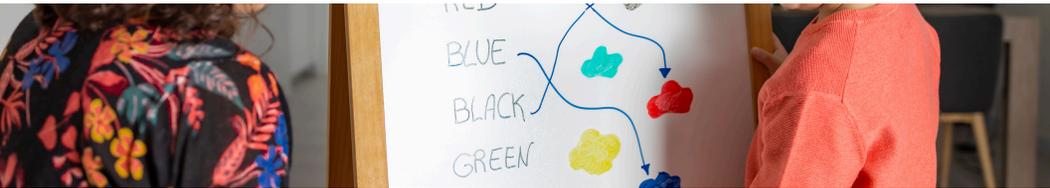
It shows how the brain can know the correct response but still struggle to produce it quickly, similar to the processing and cognitive load many individuals with learning disabilities experience.



The Need for Services



Statistics Canada, Canadian Survey on Disability, 2012



What We Hear From Parents

1

“How can I best advocate for my child when it seems the IEP is not fully implemented due to limited resources or funding at the school?”

2

“Will my child receive enough individualized support in a partially integrated program, or is there a risk they will struggle academically and socially in the regular classroom?”

3

“Strategies for managing anxiety and depression in students with LD/ADHD, and why do these often coexist?”

4

“How can parents support their child in building good executive functioning skills (organization, time management, remembering things, task initiation)?”

Programs

- Social Skills 6-Week Program
- Social Skills March Break and Summer Camps
- SoAR (Some Assembly Required) Mindful Transitions Program
- Tutoring
- Strategies for Life
- Job Fit
- Parent Support Group
- Adult Support Group

Services

- Community outreach and presentations
- Support navigating the education system (e.g. IEP guidance)
- Resource navigation
- Champions & LDAYS - Plugged In podcast

Impact

- 80+ clients participated in the Strategies for Life program.
- 90+ students were supported through the SoAR Mindful Transitions program across York and Simcoe schools.
- 10,000+ individuals accessed LDAYS' Resource Centre.
- 12 workshops were hosted with 700+ attendees.
- 10,000 hours of educational, advocacy, and tutoring services were delivered.



Outcomes

"My son has learned a lot of valuable social skills in the social skills program. We have seen huge improvements in his interactions with other children since he has been in the program. I can see he's more confident in interacting with his peers!"

— **Social Skills Program Parent**

"I really enjoy coming to the group to hear others' experiences and how they've overcome their challenges. This is such a wonderful program, and I only wish I had discovered it sooner."

— **Parent Support Group Participant**



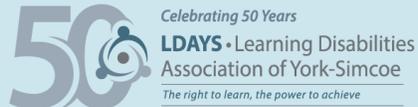
Get Involved

- **Donate!** Scan the QR code if you enjoyed this presentation



- **Volunteer** for events, committees, tutoring, etc.
- Attend events such as our **50th Anniversary Celebration**
- **Invite us to present** at your school or organization
- **Refer people** who may benefit from our services
- **Start the conversation** about LD and ADHD awareness and advocacy

There is more work to be done.



THANK YOU!

@lda_ys

alicia.carter@ldays.org

905-884-7933 x 6



Special Education Advisory Committee Association Update

Association: Easter Seals Ontario

Date: February 2026

Key Updates

- Easter Seals Ontario (ESO) is having a successful year with Snowarama events across the province with lots of snow. Snowarama is in the 51st year of winter events.
- The heavy snow falls are also resulting in challenges for people with mobility issues, as snow removal is often slow and snow build up impacts the ability to leave their home or access public transport.
- ESO is concerned about the new Student and Family Resource Centres and how they will support students with special education needs and their families. ESO believes it is important to track the number of issues that arise due to special education needs and supports.
- Applications for ESO summer camp have opened for the 2026 season. Camping sessions are open for individual campers, families of children and youth with physical disabilities, and for young adults age 20 to 36 years.
- ESO is approving equipment requests in the order they were received. Families should not order equipment until after they receive official approval for funding.
- ESO continues to administer the Incontinence Grant and Top-Up Grant for the Ontario Ministries of Health & Children, Community and Social Services, respectively. Current wait times are as follows:
 - Incontinence Grant: 6-8 months
 - Top-Up Grant: 10-12 weeks



LDAYS • Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe

The right to learn, the power to achieve

SEAC Reps - LDAYS Monthly Report - March 2026

Spring 2026 PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Social Skills March Break Camp (Ages 7–12)

We're excited to announce that registration is officially open for our Social Skills **March Break Camp 2025**, designed specifically for students aged 7-12 with Learning Disabilities and ADHD. This engaging camp focuses on building essential social and emotional skills in a safe and supportive environment, helping children gain confidence, make lasting friendships, and navigate social situations with ease.

Camp Highlights:

- **Communication Skills:** Master how to express themselves clearly, confidently, and effectively in conversations.
- **Self-Advocacy & Self-Esteem:** Learn to speak up for their needs, building a strong sense of self-worth and empowerment.
- **Problem-Solving & Conflict Resolution:** Gain the tools to handle challenges creatively, resolve conflicts with peers, and navigate tricky situations.
- **Emotional Regulation & Stress Management:** Develop skills to manage emotions and cope with stress in healthy, productive ways.
- **Bullying Awareness:** Understand how to handle bullying with confidence and resilience.
- **Friendship Building:** Participate in fun, teamwork-driven activities designed to foster meaningful connections and lasting friendships.

Our camp is led by accredited social service workers using the proven **PEERS® curriculum**, providing a structured yet fun atmosphere where children can grow socially and emotionally. With small group sizes and expert facilitators, children will get personalized attention and support throughout the program.

Camp Dates: March 16th - 20th, 2026

Location: Nichols Foundation Room, Aurora Public Library, 15145 Yonge St, Aurora L4G 1M1

****Full Subsidies Available for low and middle income households (complete the [Registration Form](#) to see if your family qualifies).****

Space is limited! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity for your child to thrive. **Register Today** to see if you qualify for any subsidies!



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Contact Heidi: 905-884-7933 ext. 3 | heidi.rysan@ldays.org
[Click Here](#) for more information | [Click here](#) to Register | [Click here for flyer](#)

Homework & Beyond (Ages 8–12)

A drop-in program that blends academic help with social skills coaching in a positive, supportive environment. This program is partially subsidized.

Locations & Times:

Richmond Hill - LDAYS Office (9030 Leslie Street, Unit 216):

- Wednesdays, March 25th - April 29th | 4:00–6:00 PM

King Township - King Township Public Library (1970 King Rd):

- Thursdays, May 7th - June 11th | 4:00–6:00 PM

Outside the 10–12 age range? No problem, we'll arrange an intake call!

Contact Alicia: 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | alicia.carter@ldays.org
[Click Here](#) for more information | [Click here](#) to Register | [Click here for flyer](#)

SoAR Mindful Transition Program

For students in Grades 7 and 8, and 11 and 12 with LDs and/or ADHD. Build essential skills for school and beyond, study strategies, stress management, self-advocacy, and more. **Available in Group Format or One-to-One Sessions.**

Group sessions are designed for Grade 7–8 and Grade 11–12 students identified with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD. The program includes four customized sessions held at the school, each lasting 45–60 minutes, with a 6:1 participant-to-facilitator ratio. If you are interested in bringing this program to your school, we would be happy to discuss how it can be tailored to meet your students' needs. Contact us to learn more, explore scheduling options, and help your students gain strategies for academic and social success.

One-to-one sessions follow the same four-session structure and are also designed for Grade 7 and 8, also Grade 11 and 12 students with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD. These individualized sessions are offered either in person at the LDAYS office or virtually, with one participant paired with one facilitator. Sessions run for 45–60 minutes, and evening appointments may be available upon request.

Contact: Isabel at 905-884-7933 x7 | Isabel.khudr@ldays.org



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[Information on SoAR Elementary](#)

[Information on SoAR High School](#)

Level Up Tutoring (Grades 1–8)

Personalized virtual support in **math and literacy**, tailored for students with LDs or ADHD. Boost confidence, build skills, and support your child’s learning journey with 1:1 expert tutoring.

Contact Alicia: 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | alicia.carter@ldays.org

[Click here](#) to Learn More & Register | [Click here](#) for flyer

Reading Rocks & JUMP Math (Ages 8–14)

Targeted, 1:1 **literacy and math** interventions for students who are at least one year behind in their curriculum. Programs run 8 weeks, twice a week.

Contact Alicia: 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | alicia.carter@ldays.org

[Click here](#) to Learn More & Register

[Click here](#) for Reading Rocks flyer | [Click here](#) for JUMP Math flyer

AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

Educational Presentations & Speaking Engagements

LD 101 Awareness Presentations – For Schools & Families

Book our 1-hour, interactive sessions for teachers, students, or parents to better understand learning disabilities and how to support all our learners.

Book today: 905-884-7933 ext. 1 | info@ldays.org

Champions – Real Stories, Real Impact

Our Champions share powerful personal stories about living and learning with LDs and ADHD. Perfect for school assemblies, events, or community sessions.

Invite a speaker: 905-884-7933 ext. 1 | info@ldays.org

Teachers and students are invited to tune into our LDAYS Podcast – LDAYS Plugged In! Join hosts Anthony and Angelica, LDAYS Ambassadors, as they sit down and take you through essential topics in the world of learning disabilities (LDs).

[Click here](#) to listen

Top inquiries from parents:



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- Parents and Teacher Engagement: how can I ensure to work with my child's teacher and ensure they are receiving their accommodations.
 - IPRCs and adequate accommodation recommendations
 - Do schools offer any support in helping my child reach their curriculum level.
- Thank you for your ongoing support, we appreciate all of the hard work you do!**