



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

Monday, February 23, 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, we thank you for this group. Please bless our conversation, open our minds to new ideas, and guide our decisions so we may achieve our goals effectively. Amen	
2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	
3. ROLL CALL	
4. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL	
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12. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)	
12.a After school Secret Agent Society (SAS) - Calling all Cadets Presentation Presented by: J. Chan and J. Lee	8
12.b Student Services Department Update Presented by: J. Powers	
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13.a Community Living York South <u>EConnector</u>	
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15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

15.a LDAYS Presentation (March)

15.b Easter Seals Presentation (April)

15.c Best Buddies (May)

15.d Bocce Tournament (Spring)

16. NEXT MEETING

March 2, 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, January 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: A. Grella, J. Wigston, J. Man, M. Bujan, A. Carter, A. Connolly,
N. Welch, N. Byrne, S. Leckey

Absent with Notice: D. Legris

Administration: J. Powers, L.Cipollone, L. Lausic

Recording Officer: C. Mong

Guest(s): C. Booth, YCDSB Manager of Hearing Services and Speech
and Language Services
L. Marchetti, YCDSB Hearing Consultant Teacher
C. Carrigan, YCDSB Teacher
T. Paniculum, YCDSB Teacher
L. Ireland, Mackenzie Health Services
C. Ruffolo-Defilippis, YCDSB Manager of OT/PT Services

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1. **OPENING PRAYER**
 2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
 3. **ROLL CALL**
 4. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**
 5. **APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL**

NIL

6. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by: J. Wigston

Seconded by: J. Man

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

7. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)**

Moved by: N. Byrne
Seconded by: A. Carter

THAT the Minutes of December 15, 2025, be approved as presented.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

9. SEAC REPORT TO BOARD

9.1 SEAC Report to Board 2026-02

Received: N. Byrne/ J. Man

10. MOMENT OF INSPIRATION

10.1 Movement Motor Break Wall Art

This presentation shared how grade 8 students at St. Michael Catholic Academy created permanent motor pathways and movement break artwork along the school walls to provide all students with ways to regulate. Through their creativity and leadership, these students have left a meaningful legacy, showcasing how art can inspire movement, well-being, and community for years to come!

11. PRESENTATIONS

11.1 FASD Presentation

This presentation introduced the basic facts regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and provided an overview of the services available at Mackenzie Health (including diagnostic services and supports for those demonstrating concerning behaviour).

11.2 Enhancing YCDSB Hearing Services

This presentation provided an overview of the YCDSB Hearing Services delivery model. Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing work closely with school teams to integrate strategies directly into daily instruction. The focus is on partnership and capacity building: empowering staff with the skills and confidence to support students, aligning planning, and ensuring consistent, high-quality support across classrooms. By working together in this way, we create a coordinated, student-centered model that helps every learner succeed, builds independence, and strengthens self-advocacy skills.

12. ACTION ITEM(S)

13. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)

14. INFORMATION ITEM(S)

14.1 YCDSB Early Facilitation Information Night

14.2 LDAYS

14.3 Community Living Programs

14.4 Easter Seals January update

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

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

16.1 Call for Association Presentations

17. NEXT MEETING

18. ADJOURNMENT

7:45pm

Moved by: N. Byrne

Seconded by: A. Carter

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 2026: 03

To: Regular Board Meeting

January 27, 2026

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on **January 12, 2026** in a hybrid format in person at the CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google meet.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	A. Grella, A. Connolly, N. Byrne, S. Leckey, N. Welch, A. Carter, J. Wigston, J. Man, J. Bujan
Administration:	J. Powers, L. Cipollone, L. Lausic,
Regrets:	D. Legris
Recording	C. Mong
Guests:	C. Carrigan, <i>YCDSB Teacher</i> T. Paniculam, <i>YCDSB Teacher</i> L. Ireland, <i>Mackenzie Health FASD Services</i> L. Marchetti, <i>YCDSB Hearing Consultant</i> C. Booth, <i>YCDSB Speech and Language and Hearing Dept. Manager</i>

1. ACTION ITEM(S): NIL

2. CORRESPONDENCE: NIL

3. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATION:

- Movement Motor Break Wall Art
- FASD Presentation
- Enhancing YCDSB Hearing Services
- YCDSB Early Facilitation Information Night – January 29, 2026 at CEC

4. ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

- LDAYS: Monthly Report
- Community Living: E-Connector
- Easter Seals Association Update

5. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

- Easter Seals Presentation
- LDAYS Presentation
- Mental Health Program updates

6. NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2026

A. GRELLA, CHAIR, SEAC

What is the Secret Agent Society Program?



- Assists children with a range of social-emotional challenges and general challenges with friendships and emotions.
- Effective with learners with Autism Spectrum, ADHD, Anxiety, Anger Difficulties, and beyond
- Fun multimedia program for students in grades 3-6
- Espionage-themed activities to teach:

Emotion Recognition
Emotion Regulation
Problem Solving
Social Skills



Program Overview

- 3-6 children per “club”
- ABA Team SAS Facilitators partner with Parents/Caregivers
- 90-min club meetings over 9 weeks
- 4 parent sessions
- Weekly missions
 - Digitised learning in Digital HQ
 - Practise skills and journals



Video



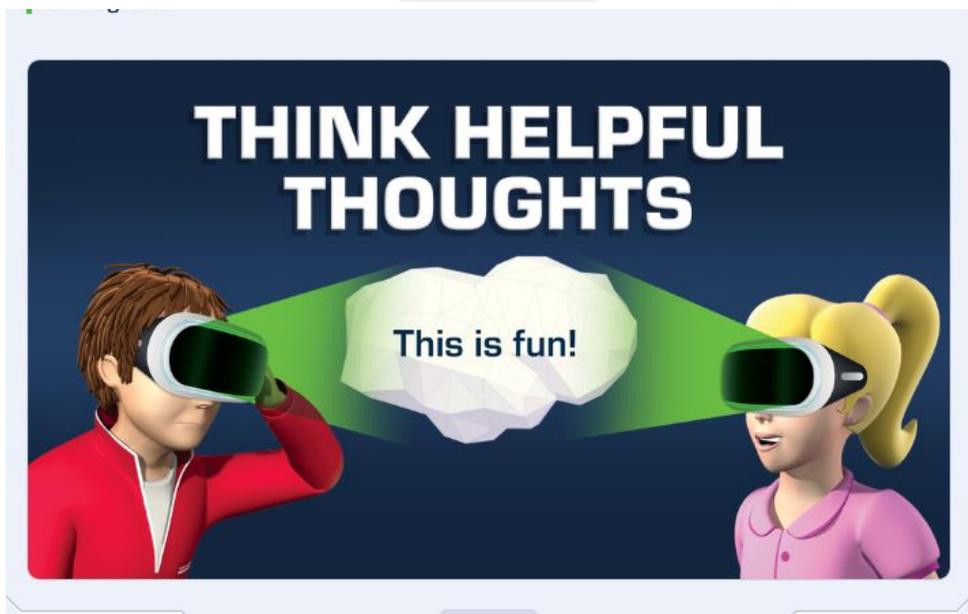
Does the Program Work?

- Results from multiple trials with children who have a range of conditions (including ASD, ADHD and/or anxiety):
 - ✓ Children's social-emotional skills and behaviour significantly improved
 - ✓ 76% children improved from having severe social difficulties to showing social skills within normal range (ASD trial)
 - ✓ Program equally effective regardless of age, IQ or co-occurring conditions

Does the Program Work? (Cont'd)

- ✓ Improvements made at home and at school and maintained up to 1 year after the program ends
- ✓ Program effective when delivered in clinic and school settings, or via remote tele-support
- ✓ Improvements in parent- and teacher confidence in supporting students' social and emotional development

Let's Try It!



Activity: Thought Tracker



Step 1:

HIDE

Be on high alert for the thoughts that come into your head when you feel upset.

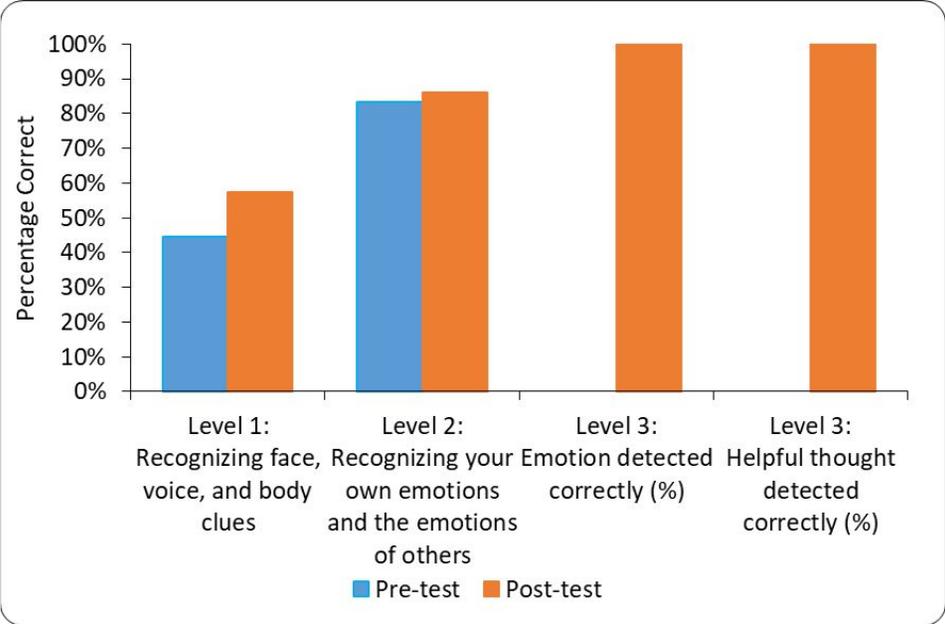
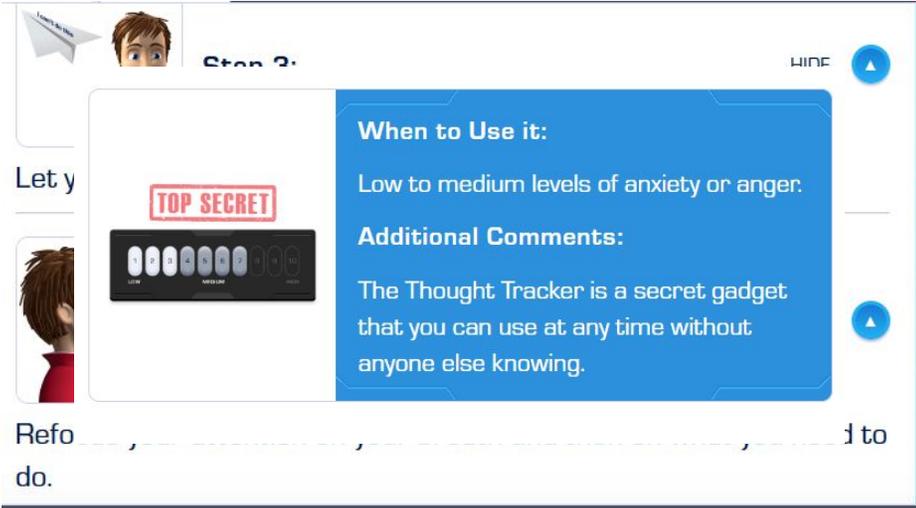


Step 2:

HIDE

Imagine the thoughts printed on SAS spy planes or blimps that float or fly through the air.

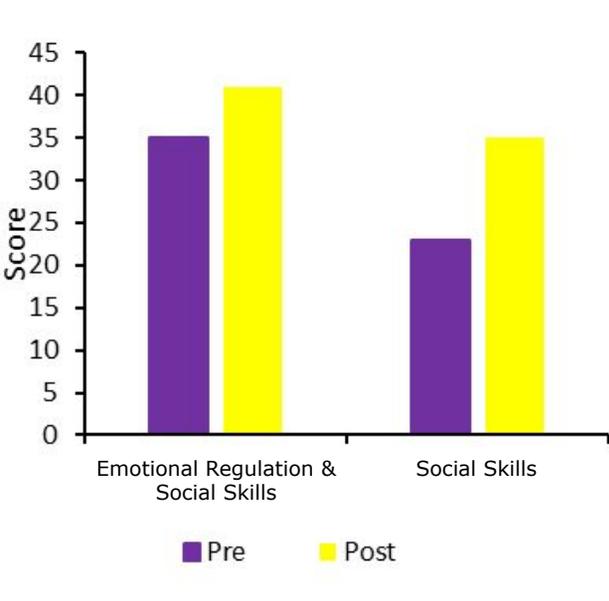
Overall Game Results



Student Gains

- ✓ Cadets
 - Reported success with missions between group meetings
 - Participated more willingly in role plays with peers
 - Raised their hands more often and shouted out less
 - Gave celebration-worthy anecdotal reports

Parent Ratings



Parent Feedback

- ✓ Parents shared many positive outcomes:
 - Children were practicing calming techniques at home
 - Parents felt more confident in their ability to support their child's future social and emotional development
 - Parents were able to support at-home generalization through reminders of specific calming techniques that were learned at meetings
 - Reported their child looked forward to club meetings

Thank you so much Kara, Jillian and Ian! [My child] sincerely enjoyed the last pizza day session earlier in January and we are in touch with a few 'SAS friends'. Great job!

YCDSB Teacher Report

"[My student] has more confidence and has better interactions with peers"

What's Next?

- ✓ Follow-up meeting scheduled for March 2026 for the Fall cohort
- ✓ Spring cohorts starting in March 2026 in the West
- ✓ Groups to be confirmed in the North and South

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