

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.

AGENDA

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 10, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

CEC: 320 Bloomington Rd W Aurora Ontario
Board Room

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Questions?

Please complete this [form](#) to submit any questions

Link:

<https://forms.gle/o7CuzGWqg82DL6SE7>

Live Stream Link:

<http://bit.ly/YCDSB-TV>

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

	Time	Item	Resource	Page
1.0	7:00	OPENING PRAYER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	A. Grella/ D. Legris	
2.0	7:05	ROLL CALL	A. Grella	
3.0	7:07	APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL	A. Grella	
4.0	7:09	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – February 10, 2025	A. Grella	
5.0	7:11	APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – January 13, 2025	A. Grella	
6.0	7:12	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - NIL	A. Grella	
7.0	7:15	SEAC REPORT TO BOARD Report 2025:02 – January 2025	A. Grella	
8.0	7:20	MOMENT OF INSPIRATION Celebrating God's Gifts at L'Arche Daybreak	M. Liberatore	
9.0	7:30	PRESENTATIONS 9.1 Transition Planning Symposium 9.2 Mindfulness with ASD and FLS student 9.3 Student Services Monthly update	L. Lausic M. Prinzo J. Powers	8
10.0	8:30	ACTION ITEM(S)	A. Grella	
11.0	8:33	DISCUSSIONS ITEM(S)	A. Grella	
12.0	8:35	INFORMATION ITEM(S) 12.1 SEAC Meeting dates 12.2 MASCE Submission 12.3 Rare Disease Day – February 28, 2025 – Information attached 12.4 Special Education realignment 12.5 Association News • Autism ON: Celebrate the Spectrum April 2025, Report card Project • LDAYS: Upcoming Programs & workshops – information attached • Community Living: E Connector	A. Grella J. Powers A. Grella J. Powers SEAC Representatives Autism ON LDAYS Community Living	9 10 14 15
13.0	8:40	NOTICE OF MOTION	A. Grella	
14.0	8:55	FUTURE ITEM(S) Best Buddies Dance Bocce Tournament	A. Grella	
15.0	8:58	Next Meeting: March 3, 2025	A. Grella	
16.0	9:00	ADJOURNMENT	A. Grella	



Father, we thank you for an opportunity
to gather here today,
We pray that this meeting is successful,
productive, and blessed.
Holy Spirit guide us during our discussions,
and give us wisdom concerning
the issues that we face,
That they remain in the best interest in our students
we gather here today to serve.
Lord we give you the glory for what we accomplish.
Amen

Land Acknowledgement

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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 .

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

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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 **January 13, 2025** at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	A.Carter*, N. Byrne*, A. Connolly*, A. Grella, M. Iafrate*, D. Legris*, S. Leckey*, J. Man*, N. Welch*, J. Wigston, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	J. Akleh*, M. Marcello*
Administration:	A.Cabraja, L.Lausic, J. Powers, E. Strano
Regrets:	M. Xue
Recording:	C. Mong*
Guest Presenters:	J. Duff, CDA, Student Services, YCDSB J. Lee, Manager of ABA & Behaviour Resource Services YCDSB I. McCarthy, ABA Associate, Student Services YCDSB J. Neiman, ABA Associate, Student Services YCDSB M. Prinzo, Manager, Mental Health 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 January 13, 2024 Motion– Agenda approved (Legris / Byrne)

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

6.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes NIL

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

8.0 Moment of Inspiration *The ACC team together with students from various elementary schools put together a heartwarming Christmas video.*

9.0 Presentations / Discussions

9.1 Mental Health Updates

- M. Prinzo, Mental Health Manager shared various tier 1 to tier 3 programs delivered in term one. The presentation also highlighted collaboration with other committees around Mental Health related topics

9.2 ABA Team Pilot Projects

- The ABA team highlighted the pilot project currently taking place in two elementary schools. The Secret Agent Society social-emotional program focuses on: instruction following skills, tolerance skills, functional communication skills and friendship skills. In term 2, two additional schools will take part in the program.

9.3 Early Facilitation Parent Information Evening

- YCDSB invites parents to attend our in-person information session to learn about our Special Education Programs and Services. The event will be held on January 30, 2025 at the Catholic Education Centre at 7:00pm

9.4 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 Association News: LDAYS Monthly Report & Flyers
Items Received (Byrne / Carter)

14.0 Future Item(s)

Nil

15.0 Next Meeting: Monday February 10, 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 8:06 p.m.

Meeting adjourned (Legris / Byrne)

9.4 Student Services Monthly Update

Elementary Special Education

In December, both ELeментарy and Secondary, Special Education Program Consultants and Coordinators trained over 300 special education teachers and 130 administrators on the new RISE platform. RISE is our new and exciting software that will integrate workflows for all departments and all processes managed by Student Services.

A total of 10 training sessions were held over a period of 3 weeks in late November and December. Migration of data took place over the Christmas break and teachers have begun working on the new platform as of today!

Teachers will be engaging with the new platform to complete Report Card Addendums for term/semester 1 and begin updating student IEPs for term 2. Consultants will be offering virtual drop-in sessions to support staff in this migration throughout the month of January..

ILITs are wrapping up programs in their current school assignments and are in the midst of completing post-tests with the students they have serviced throughout the first term. We look forward to

sharing results with SEAC in the coming months.

In January we will continue to inservice teachers who are new to the special education role. We will be offering training on the STAR Program which has seen great success with our students with ASD. We will also be offering an Intro to Lexia for new teachers as well as an additional session on RISE for teachers and administrators who are new to the role as of 2025.

Secondary Special Education

I am very excited to share that the secondary Student Services Team will be hosting the *Life After High School Symposium* for Parents/Guardians of students with intellectual disabilities. This symposium will take place here at the CEC on May 8th and will host various community day programs, and agencies that offer programs and services to students with disabilities after they graduate at 21.

Our keynote speakers are representatives from YSSN, DSo and Passport funding. If any of our SEAC organizations are interested in participating in this event, please contact Linda Lausic for more information. I would also like to invite Trustee Grella, our SEAC Chair to say a few words on behalf of SEAC that night. At our next SEAC in February, I will be sharing the official flyer for this event with all of you.

On January 9th, we were very lucky to have been given the opportunity to offer a training session on the topic of Special Education to all of our secondary Vice Principals. Coordinator Linda Lausic provided an overview of legislation, policies and procedures in Special Education and she made sure to include information about the importance of SEAC.

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 2024: 02

To: Regular Board Meeting

January 28, 2025

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on **January 13, 2025** in a hybrid format in person at the CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google meet.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	A.Carter*, N. Byrne*, A. Connolly*, A. Grella, M. Iafrate*, D. Legris*, S. Leckey*, J. Man*, N. Welch*, J. Wigston, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	J. Akleh*, M. Marcello*
Administration:	A.Cabraja*, L.Lausic, J. Powers, E. Strano*
Regrets:	M. Xue
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Guests:	J. Duff, <i>CDA, Student Services, YCDSB</i> J. Lee, <i>Manager of ABA & Behaviour Resource Services YCDSB</i> I. McCarthy, <i>ABA Associate, Student Services YCDSB</i> J. Neiman, <i>ABA Associate, Student Services YCDSB</i> M. Prinzo, <i>Manager, Mental Health Services YCDSB</i>

**Denotes Virtual attendance*

- 1. ACTION ITEM(S):** NIL
- 2. CORRESPONDENCE:** NIL
- 3. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATION:**
 - Mental Health Updates
 - ABA Team Pilot Projects
 - Early Facilitation Parent Information Evening
 - Student Services Monthly Update
- 4. ASSOCIATION REPORTS:**
 - LDAYS: Winter programs and Monthly Report
- 5. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:**
- 6. NEXT MEETING:** February 10, 2025

A. GRELLA, CHAIR, SEAC



The York Catholic District School Board
Student Services Department
and the Special Education Advisory Committee in
Collaboration with Your Support Services Network
Invite you to Attend:



LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: TRANSITION PLANNING SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, May 8th, 2025

6pm - 9pm

at York Catholic District School Board
320 Bloomington Rd W., Aurora, ON

What?: A symposium on post-secondary pathways, programs, and supports

Who?: Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of students with a Developmental or Intellectual Disability who want to plan for the future

Why?: To support early transition planning for students on alternative pathways



AGENDA:

6:00 pm: **Program Symposium in the Foyer**
Tour Programs/Services Booths

7:00 pm: **Keynote Speaker Clare MacDonald**
in the Board Room with light refreshments
Transitional Planner for Your Support Services
Network with representatives from
Community Agencies followed by a Questions
and Answer Session



REGISTRATION



bit.ly/pepsymposium

Please REGISTER
by May 5th, 2025
to confirm your
attendance.

For Inquiries Contact: pep@ycdsb.ca



YCDSB SEAC Meeting Dates

2024-2025

September 16, 2024

October 21, 2024

November 11, 2024

December 16, 2024

January 13, 2025

February 10, 2025

March 3, 2025

April 7, 2025

May 5, 2025

June 9, 2025

Meeting date changes made in red



Learning Together in Christ
Engaging, Enabling, Empowering



FEB 28
2025

AN OPPORTUNITY
TO PUT PEOPLE
LIVING WITH A
RARE CONDITION IN
THE SPOTLIGHT!

MORE
THAN YOU CAN
IMAGINE

rarediseaseday@eurordis.org



LEARN MORE ON

rarediseaseday.org

[#RareDiseaseDay](https://twitter.com/RareDiseaseDay)

WHEN

The last day of February every year.

WHAT

Rare Disease Day is a globally-coordinated, patient-led movement that raises awareness of rare diseases and their impact on the lives of the 300 million people living with them worldwide and their families. The campaign works towards equity in:

- social opportunity,
- healthcare and,
- access to diagnosis and therapies.

WHERE

Thousands of events happen worldwide and online!

EURORDIS – Rare Diseases Europe coordinates the campaign globally, while national alliances and other rare disease organisations host local events.

WHO

Everyone! The Rare Disease Day campaign brings together people living with rare diseases and their families, patient organisations, health professionals, researchers, institutions, drug developers, public health authorities, and policy makers. The more participants, the louder our voice!

HOW

Since its creation by EURORDIS in 2008, thousands of awareness-raising activities have taken place globally, reaching hundreds of thousands of people and generating local, national, and international media attention.

**BE A PART
OF GLOBAL
MOVEMENT!**

Check out our communication materials, including the official video, campaign posters, other downloadable resources, and toolkits that can easily be adapted to your language and needs. Visit rarediseaseday.org and click on 'Resources' in the menu.



Write to us at

rarediseaseday@eurordis.org

OVERARCHING PURPOSE!

Rare Disease Day strives for equity for people living with a rare disease. This goal shapes our annual campaign, letting national partners focus on what's most important in their country, like diagnosis, treatment, or social participation. Visit our website to learn more and how to adapt it locally.

GET INVOLVED

- Contact your local National Alliance or patient organisation
- Become a Friend of Rare Disease Day
- Share your story! Upload a photo, video, or story to our website
- Download and share our communication materials
- Raise awareness among children and teens with our translated toolkits
- Organise or join an awareness event (*find more on our interactive map*)
- Reach out to local media
- Join our Global Chain of Lights by lighting up a building, your workplace or your home in Rare Disease Day colours
- Follow us on social media and engage with our posts
- Join or watch our capacity-building webinars
- Sign up for our newsletters

Rare Disease Day is a registered trademark. Please respect the spirit of Rare Disease Day and do not use the logo for commercial purposes



Show Your Stripes
video.mp4

Share Your Stripes Video on Rare Disease Day (You Tube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b926EI8GR-8>



EVENTS WORLDWIDE

A collage of images featuring the Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders (CORD) logo in the top right corner. The collage includes the CN Tower, the Toronto Waterfalls, and the Toronto Skyline, all illuminated with rainbow lights. The CORD logo is white and features a stylized 'C' and 'O' with a person icon inside the 'O'.

A photograph of a large fountain at night, illuminated with vibrant rainbow lights. The water jets are lit with red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple lights.

SHARE YOURS TODAY!

A small icon of a rainbow flower with multiple colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) and a black outline.

RAREDISEASEDAY.ORG

Call for Autistic Participants

“The Report Card Project”

The Re Storying Autism in Education research team is looking for people who identify as Autistic to participate in an arts-based project on their experiences with educational assessments.

- Participants must be 16 years or older to participate
- If you identify as Autistic you are eligible to participate
- We encourage non speaking Autistics, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ to participate
- Participants will be invited to participate in a online exhibit
 - Materials such as a template will be provided
- You will be asked to recall your experiences with K-12 educational assessments such as report cards or evaluations

If you are interested in participating or have any questions please contact:

Dr. Patty Douglas (PI) douglas.patricia@queensu.ca or Haley Clark

haley.clark@queensu.ca

This study has received ethical approval by Queen’s University General Research Ethics Board.



RESERVE
YOUR SPOT
TODAY!

Space is limited

This program is
facilitated in office
12 participants
6 weeks

[Click Here](#)
[to Register](#)

For more information
please contact

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

Homework & Beyond is a
fully subsidized
program

After School Program: Homework & Beyond

A tutoring and social skills hybrid program.

Homework & Beyond is a fully subsidized drop-in program for students ages 10-12 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:** March 20th to April 24th, every Thursday from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM.
- **Where:** 9030 Leslie Street, Unit 216, Richmond Hill, ON.
- **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.

Self-Compassion: Coping Skills for Stress and Anxiety

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP

As an individual diagnosed with ADHD in adulthood, Nicky personally understands the unique challenges that come along with coping with LD/ADHD and the accompanying anxiety, stress and negative self-talk.

Join Us on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Drawing from her professional and personal experience as an adult diagnosed with ADHD, Nicky will share practical tools and strategies to help manage the unique challenges of living with an LD and ADHD, including how to navigate stress, anxiety, and negative self-talk. Join us for an insightful 1-hour presentation focused on Self-Compassion and Coping Skills for Stress and Anxiety tailored for adults with Learning Disabilities (LD) and ADHD.



About the Speaker: Nicky Lightstone

Nicky is a registered psychotherapist with a Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology from Yorkville University, practicing since 2021 after a decade in the charitable sector. Inspired by her own positive therapy experience, she is passionate about helping others achieve self-awareness, personal growth, and mental health goals.

As a clinician, Nicky creates an authentic, compassionate, and judgment-free space for clients, focusing on personal autonomy, social and cultural safety, and anti-oppression principles. She offers unconditional kindness, collaborates with clients to foster growth, and advocates for them both in and outside the therapy room.

Registration

For more information please contact our office:
info@ldays.org or **(905) 884-7933 extension 7**

**Click the 'REGISTER HERE' button or scan the
QR CODE to sign up today!**

REGISTER HERE



Upcoming Programs

Jump Math

- 8 week math program for students age 7-13
- Curriculum-based
- Two one hour sessions per week
- Focuses on building strong foundational math skills and improving computational fluency

[Register Here](#)

Reading Rocks

- 8 week reading program for students age 7-13
- Curriculum-based
- Two one hour sessions per week
- Focuses on building strong literacy skills through engaging, motivational strategies

[Register Here](#)

Level Up

- Flexible program for students in grades 2-8
- Meetings are once week, for one hour, with up to 4 sessions a month
- Personalized homework assistance, help with numeracy and literacy skills, improving study habits, ect.

[Register Here](#)

All three of our tutoring programs offer virtual, 1:1 sessions with experienced tutors. Personalized to meet your child's unique needs, each program provides flexible scheduling to fit your family's routine. With limited spaces available, early registration ensures you secure the best timeslot for your child.

Contact Alicia for more information at 905-884-7933 ext. 6.

Social Skills

- 6 week program for students age 7-12
- Curriculum-based
- 1 one hour sessions per week
- Focuses on social skills like communication, listening, problem solving, friendship skills, self esteem, self advocacy and more!
- Maximum 6 students per group
- Groups meet in York Region and Simcoe County

Contact Tori for more information at 905-884-7933 ext. 4.

[Register Here](#)

SoAR Mindful Transitions

- 4 one hour sessions.
- 1:1 format in-person, online, or group sessions in schools.
- Tailored resources and interactive sessions for each student, alongside a workbook that covers a wide range of topics.
- Topics include but are not limited to self-advocacy, stress management, understanding your IEP, accessing accommodations, and much more!

Contact Sara for more information at 905-884-7933 ext. 3.

[Elementary](#)

[High School](#)

For more information and to register for any of the programs below, contact Meghan at 905-884-7933 ext. 7.

Parent Support Group (PSG)

Parents and guardians are invited to join our FREE Virtual Support Group, designed to support caregivers in navigating the journey of managing their child's Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD. This monthly gathering offers a chance to connect, share experiences, and discuss emotions while strategizing for both strengths and challenges in a positive environment. The group is currently held over Zoom at 7:30pm on Thursday nights.

[Register Here](#)

Strategies For Life

This nine-session individual counseling program is designed for youth and adults aged 16+ with Learning Disabilities (LD) and/or ADHD, focusing on the socio-emotional effects of these conditions. Participants will gain insight into their diagnosis, strengths, and challenges, while learning coping strategies for stress and anxiety, and creating action plans to navigate life's obstacles. The program aims to build resiliency and life skills, empowering individuals to thrive and achieve overall well-being.

[Register Here](#)

Job Fit

The Job Fit program supports youth and adults 18+ with LDs and/or ADHD in exploring their interests, strengths, and areas of need to successfully pursue employment and request workplace accommodations. It helps clients gain a deeper understanding of their LDs while building confidence to enter the workforce. The program also covers post-secondary options and requirements for career advancement. Job Fit can serve as the bridge to help you close the gap between where you are now and where you want to be.

[Register Here](#)

Adult Support Group (ASG)

Adults are invited to join our FREE Virtual Support Group, where you can connect with others who understand the challenges of living with Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD. This is a great opportunity to meet new people, share your feelings in a safe space, build self-esteem, and collaborate on problem-solving while celebrating successes. The groups is currently held over zoom at 7pm on Wednesday nights.

[Register Here](#)