



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

**Monday, October 20, 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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| 7.a SEAC Report to Board 2025-08                                                                              |              |
| 8. MOMENT OF INSPIRATION                                                                                      |              |
| 8.a Student Success                                                                                           |              |
| Presented by: Yolanda Cheung, Occupational Therapist                                                          |              |
| 9. PRESENTATIONS                                                                                              |              |
| 9.a Summer Mental Health Initiatives                                                                          |              |
| <a href="#">Link</a>                                                                                          |              |
| Presenters: Michelle Prinzo, Mental Health Manager and Renee Jordan, Mental Health Instructional Lead Teacher |              |
| 10. ACTION ITEM(S)                                                                                            |              |
| 11. DISCUSSION ITEM(S)                                                                                        |              |
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| 13. NOTICES OF MOTION                                                                                         |              |
| 14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION                                                           |              |

14.a Call for future association presentations

**15. NEXT MEETING**

15.a November 15, 2025 at 6:30pm

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

# 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 .

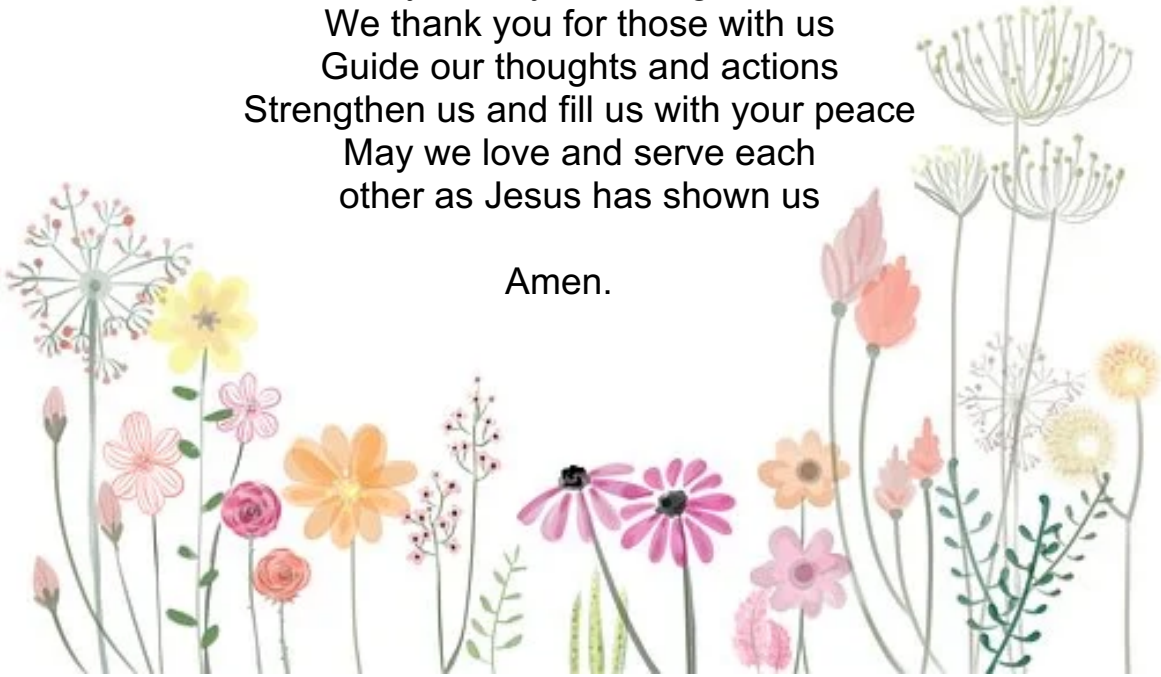
We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve

as stewards of the Earth .

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

Loving God,  
We gather here today under your care and protection  
Thank you for your loving kindness  
We thank you for those with us  
Guide our thoughts and actions  
Strengthen us and fill us with your peace  
May we love and serve each  
other as Jesus has shown us

Amen.



**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**MINUTES**  
**of the SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, September 15, 2025, 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: J. Wigston, A. Grella, A. Connolly, N. Byrne, S. Leckey,  
M. Rennie, J. Man, A. Carter, D. Legris

Absent with Notice: M. Iafrate, C. Chen, Y. Zhou, N. Welch, S. Byrne, M. Bujan,  
S. Carnovale

Administration: J. Powers, L. Lausic, E. Strano, J. Akleh

Recording Officer: C. Mong

Presenters: P. D'Ugo, OT/PT-A  
V. Ip, OT  
M. Liberatore, Itinerant Work Experience Teacher  
S. Prajapati, OT

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**1. OPENING PRAYER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

A. Grella Chair SEAC, welcomed everyone to the SEAC Meeting and lead the opening prayer at 6:35pm. The Land Acknowledgement followed.

**1.1 Prayer**

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. APPROVAL OF NEW MATERIAL**

No new materials

**THAT** the new material be approved as presented.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Moved by:** D. Legris

**Seconded by:** J. Wigston

**THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S):**

## **5.1 June 9, 2025, Minutes**

**Moved by:** D. Legris

**Seconded by:** J. Wigston

**THAT** the Minutes of June 9, 2025, be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

## **7. SEAC REPORT TO BOARD**

### **7.1 SEAC June Report to Board 2025-07**

## **8. MOMENT OF INSPIRATION**

### **8.1 Fit body, fit mind summer camp**

The Fit Body, Fit Mind camp, held over one week, was a joint effort between Occupational Therapy and Mental Health Services, aimed at students with physical disabilities in Grades 4-8 who could direct their own care. Funded by the MOE Summer Learning, the camp provided a mix of structured activities and flexible choices to enhance physical and mental health, self-esteem, and social connections while addressing anxiety and body image issues.

Program Highlights:

Activities like rock climbing, floor hockey, and arts/crafts promoted teamwork, problem-solving, and sensory/motor skills development.

Gross motor activities improved strength, coordination, and stamina.

Students reported greater social engagement, confidence, and a sense of belonging.

Parents appreciated the camp's inclusive approach and its positive impact on their children's social skills and confidence. Transportation played a key role in its success. The camp's ability to foster an inclusive, supportive environment highlights the importance of continued investment in such programs.

## **9. PRESENTATIONS**

### **9.1 Cooperative Education Supports for Students with Disabilities Pilot**

This program bridges classroom learning with real-world experience. Through mentorship from staff and supervision by an OTA, neurodiverse students gain hands-on skills in trades settings. The co-op model helps them explore career paths, build confidence, and develop essential work habits. Ongoing communication with co-op teachers ensures that the experience is supportive, structured, and aligned with both student and workplace goals.

10. **ACTION ITEM(S)**
11. **DISCUSSION ITEM(S)**
12. **INFORMATION ITEM(S)**
  - 12.1 **2025-2026 Meeting dates**
  - 12.2 **Community Living York South**
  - 12.3 **LDAYS**
13. **NOTICES OF MOTION**
14. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S) / REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**
  - 14.1 **Call for Association Presentations**
15. **NEXT MEETING**
  - 15.1 **October 20, 2025 at 6:30pm**
16. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by:** N. Byrne  
**Seconded by:** J. Wigston

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT NO. 2025: 08**

**To: Regular Board Meeting**

**September 30, 2025**

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on **September 15, 2025** in a hybrid format in person at the CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google meet.

**PRESENT:**

|                    |                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Committee Members: | J. Wigston, A. Grella, A. Connolly, N. Byrne, S. Leckey,<br>M. Rennie, J. Man, A. Carter, D. Legris, J. Akleh |
| Administration:    | J. Powers, L.Lausic, E. Strano                                                                                |
| Regrets:           | M. Iafrate, C. Chen, Y. Zhou, N. Welch, S. Byrne, M. Bujan,<br>S. Carnovale                                   |
| Recording          | C. Mong                                                                                                       |
| Guests:            | P. D'Ugo, OT/PT-A<br>V. Ip, OT<br>M. Liberatore, Itinerant Work Experience Teacher<br>S. Prajapati, OT        |

1. **ACTION ITEM(S):** NIL
2. **CORRESPONDENCE:** NIL
3. **PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATION:**
  - Cooperative Education Supports for Students with Disabilities Pilot
4. **ASSOCIATION REPORTS:**
  - Community Living – E Connector
  - LDAYS: Monthly Report, Upcoming programs and Workshops
5. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:** NIL
6. **NEXT MEETING:** October 20, 2025

A. GRELLA, CHAIR, SEAC

## **SEAC Reps - LDAYS Monthly Report - October 2025**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### ***Virtual Presentation: Fundamentals of Executive Function***

**October 15, 2025 | 7:00 PM | Zoom | FREE**

Discover how executive function impacts learning, emotions, and behavior in this 1-hour session led by Dr. Laurie Faith. Learn practical coaching strategies, tools for emotional regulation, and how to support learners with ADHD or LDs.

*Speaker:* Dr. Laurie Faith, Assistant Professor at University of Toronto and creator of [ActivatedLearning.org](http://ActivatedLearning.org)

[Click here to register](#)  
[Click Here for Flyer](#)

#### ***Ask the Experts: Educational Consultants Q&A***

**October 21, 2025 | 7:00 PM | Zoom | FREE**

Got questions about IEPs, accommodations, or advocacy? Educational Consultants Karen and Ann Wolff are here to help. Bring your questions and get expert advice on navigating the school system.

Topics include:

- IEPs/IPRCs
- Assistive Tech
- Learning Skills
- Advocacy & more

[Click here to register](#)  
[Click Here for Flyer](#)

### **Fall 2025 PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

#### ***Social Skills Program (Ages 7–12)***

Help your child build confidence, friendship skills, and emotional awareness in a fun, small-group setting. Based on the proven PEERS® curriculum, led by trained professionals.

Locations & Dates:

- Richmond Hill (LDAYS Office): Mondays, Oct 20–Nov 24 | 5:30–6:30 PM
- Newmarket (Bogart PS): Tuesdays, Oct 21–Nov 25 | 6:00–7:00 PM

Contact: Nina at 905-884-7933 x1 | [nina.shwaizer@ldays.org](mailto:nina.shwaizer@ldays.org)  
[Click Here](#) for more information | [Click here](#) to Register  
[Click Here for Flyer](#)

**Homework & Beyond (Ages 10–12)**

A drop-in program that blends academic help with social skills coaching in a relaxed, supportive space.

Locations & Times:

- King Township: Thursdays, Oct 2–Nov 6 | 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](mailto:alicia.carter@ldays.org)

[Click Here](#) for more information | [Click here](#) to Register

[Click Here for Flyer](#)

**SoAR Mindful Transition Program**

A transitional program for Grades 7–8 & 11–12 students with LD/ADHD to build skills, manage stress, and strengthen self-advocacy as they prepare for high school, post-secondary, or life beyond

Group Format: 4 sessions, 6 students per group

Richmond Hill (9030 Leslie, Unit 216): Wednesdays, Nov 12–Dec 3 | 5:00–6:00 PM

Contact: Isabel at 905-884-7933 x7 | [Isabel.khudr@ldays.org](mailto:Isabel.khudr@ldays.org)

[Information on SoAR Elementary](#)

[Information on SoAR High School](#)

[Click Here for Flyer](#)

**Level Up Tutoring (Grades 3–7)**

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](mailto:alicia.carter@ldays.org)

[Learn more & register](#)

[Click Here for Flyer](#)

**Reading Rocks & JUMP Math (Ages 8–14)**

Targeted, 1:1 or small-group literacy and math interventions for students who are significantly behind in their curriculum. Programs run 8 weeks, twice a week. Fee assistance available.

Contact Alicia: 905-884-7933 ext. 6 | [alicia.carter@ldays.org](mailto:alicia.carter@ldays.org)

[Learn more & register](#)

[Click Here for Reading Rocks Flyer](#)

[Click Here for JUMP Math Flyer](#)

**AWARENESS & ADVOCACY****October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month!**

1 in 10 Canadians has a learning disability. This October, let's raise awareness, celebrate strengths, and break the stigma.

**October 15th** is Learning Disabilities Awareness Day  
Host a presentation, share resources, or invite us to your school.  
[Watch our YouTube playlist](#)  
[Listen to our podcast “Plugged In”](#)

Get involved: [info@ldays.org](mailto:info@ldays.org) | 905-884-7933 x5  
[Click Here for LD Awareness One Page Info](#)  
[Click Here for LD Awareness Campaign Kit](#)

### **V.I.P. Award – Nominate a Changemaker!**

LDAYS is accepting nominations for our 34th Very Important Person (V.I.P.) Award! Help us recognize someone making a real difference in the lives of individuals with LDs or ADHD.  
*Nominate educators, students, or community members in York Region or Simcoe County.*

We invite nominations for:

- Educators, administrators, and frontline community service workers who go above and beyond to support individuals with learning disabilities.
- Students who have specifically worked to raise awareness, reduce stigma, or improve understanding of Learning Disabilities and/or ADHD within their school community.

Deadline: October 14, 2025  
[Nominate here](#)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:info@ldays.org)

### **Top inquiries from parents:**

- How can parents support their child in building good executive functioning skills (i.e. organization, time management, remembering things, task initiation).
- What supports are there in the school for my child that is a few curriculum grades behind in literacy or numeracy? How can we ensure by the time they get to high school they can catch up to their curriculum level?

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

## REPORT TO SEAC, OCTOBER 2025

A formal announcement was made by the Ontario government on September 29, 2025 regarding its commitment to protect the provincial health care system by making it faster and easier for young people to connect to mental health and substance use support. As Lead Agency, York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families is pleased to host one of 10 new hubs in Ontario and the first youth wellness hub in Vaughan. York Hills led the co-design of the Maple Youth Wellness Hub with local community partners including 360°kids, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) York Region & South Simcoe, and Addiction Services Central Ontario (ASCO), ensuring diverse youth voices were at the centre of the design of the hub model. We worked closely with our Youth Advisory Council to help shape a space that truly puts youth at the centre of services that reflect the real needs of young people in York Region.

The **new hub offers free, walk-in services for youth aged 12 to 25**, services include mental health and substance use support, primary care, peer support and social services. Additional services offered through the hub include supports for newcomers, employment services and access to community and social supports – under one roof. **Maple YWHO is located at 9401 Jane Street, Suite 321, Maple, On L6A 4H7.** For more information, please contact Nina Singh, YWHO Manager, at 289-380-2662 or [nsingh@yorkhills.ca](mailto:nsingh@yorkhills.ca)



News Release: <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1006553/ontario-making-it-easier-for-youth-in-york-region-to-connect-to-mental-health-services>

## Special Education Advisory Committee Association Update

**Association:** Easter Seals Ontario

**Date:** October 2025

### Key Updates

- Easter Seals Ontario has already committed over \$1.5M this year through our Equipment Funding Program, which funds orthotics, accessibility, mobility, communication, and bath/toileting aids not covered by ADP. While ADP covers 75% of some of these items (but 0% of all bath/toileting aids), the remaining 25% remains a substantial financial burden for many families – especially when equipment such as pediatric power wheelchairs can cost between \$35-45K (family portion to be paid would be roughly \$8,750–\$11,250). Keep in mind that families must upgrade this equipment every time their child goes through a growth spurt!
- Over the past 2 months we have committed \$24K in scholarship and grant funding for adaptive school supplies to 21 students (through SunLife and ScotiaRise). We also renewed a partnership with Bruce Power to provide 5 of our post-secondary age clients with mentorships in their fields of study.
- We sent out a comprehensive Family Priorities in Special Education Survey to our client families. The purpose of this survey is to gather insight into the families' experiences in key areas of Spec Ed including: IEPs, IPRCs, accessibility, inclusion, and school support. Data collected will inform our advocacy efforts. We invite you to share the following survey link with your networks:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8VJ9XTZ>
- We also made a submission to the Ontario Auditor General's Office for their audit of special education in Ontario, via a PAAC on SEAC invitation, in which we identified key concerns raised by our clients and their families.
- Easter Seals Ontario will be supporting a PAAC on SEAC working group in the development of presentation materials that will be shared at the Chiefs of Ontario Education Team's 2025 Special Education Sharing Forum: "Empowering Futures – Holistic Approaches to First Nations Special Education in Ontario" in November.