

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

October 21, 2024

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
1.0	7:00	Call to Order	A. Grella
2.0	7:02	Prayer Land Acknowledgement	A. Grella D. Legris
3.0	7:04	3.1 Roll Call 3.2 Approval of New Materials	A. Grella
4.0	7:05	Moment of Inspiration Unity in Diversity Culture Days Event	M. Liberatore, M. Arista Vallario
5.0	7:35	Approval of Agenda of October 21, 2024	A. Grella
6.0	7:36	Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2024	A. Grella
7.0	7:37	SEAC Report to Board Report 2024:09 – September 2024	A. Grella
8.0	7:38	Information Items 8.1 Board Meeting Date: October 29, 2024	A. Grella
9.0	7:39	Correspondence	A. Grella
10.0	7:40	Presentations/Discussions 10.1 LDAYS 10.2 Student Services Monthly update 10.3 Upcoming presentations	H. Strola, N. Shwaizer J. Powers A. Grella
11.0	8:40	Business Arising	A. Grella
12.0	8:45	Action Items	A. Grella
13.0	8:46	Association News	SEAC Representatives
14.0	8:50	Items for Future Agenda	A. Grella
15.0	8:55	Next Meeting: November 11, 2024	A. Grella
16.0	9:00	Adjournment	A. Grella

PRAYER

As we gather here today,
we take a moment to express our gratitude for the
many blessings in our lives.

Thank you for the gift of community, the support of
one another,
and the opportunities to work together in purpose.

We appreciate the food on our tables, the love of
family and friends,
and the abundance that surrounds us.

Help us to remember those who may be in need,
and inspire us to share our blessings with others.

Guide our discussions today with wisdom and
kindness.

May our decisions reflect our gratitude
and our commitment to serving one another and our
community.

Thank you for this time together.
We ask for your blessings on our meeting and our
hearts.

Amen

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

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 **September 16, 2024** at **7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	N, Byrne*, A. Connolly*, A. Grella, D. Legris, S. Leckey*, R. Liscio*, J. Man*, J. Wigston, M. Xue, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	M. Marcello*, C. Sandig*
Administration:	A.Cabraja, L.Lausic, J. Powers, E. Strano
Regrets:	N. Welch
Recording:	C. Mong
Guest Presenters:	J. Fryer, <i>SEA Assistive Technology Trainer, YCDSB</i> S. Lambert, <i>Boomerang Health</i> C. Ruffolo-Defilippis, <i>Manager, Physical Management Department, YCDSB</i> L. Pietrolungo, <i>Boomerang Health</i> M. Prinzo, <i>Lead & Manager, Mental Health Department, YCDSB</i> A. Volpe, <i>SEA Assistive Technology Trainer, YCDSB</i>

*Denotes virtual attendance

CALL TO ORDER / ATTENDANCE

1.0 Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

2.0 Approval of New Material

Nil – No New Material

2.1 Roll Call

3.0 Moment of Inspiration

SEA Summer Assistive Technology Camp: This summer, the SEA team ran the Summer Assistive Technology Camp. Students grade 3 + attended this camp. This camp provided assistive support to students and families to better prepare them for the upcoming school year, the campers and family really enjoyed themselves!

5.0 Approval of Agenda September 16, 2024

Motion– Agenda approved (Legris / Xue)

6.0 Approval of the Minutes June 17, 2024

Motion - Minutes approved (Wigston / Byrne)

7.0 SEAC Report to Board

Report 2024:08 – June 2024

8.0 Information Items

8.1 Board Meeting Date: September 24, 2024
Items 7.0-8.1 Received on Block (Wiston / Byrne)

9.0 Correspondence

10.0 Presentations / Discussions

10.1 Therapy Services

- Boomerang Health powered by SickKids provided an overview of their facilities and programs.

10.2 Summer Mental Wellness Programs

- This program highlighted summer programs the Mental Health team and the Physical Management team offered through funds provided by the Ministry of Education TPA. During the month of July there were over 2000 students ages 8-18 years participated. Transportation was provided to those who needed it. Parent feedback: the overall experience was extremely positive!

10.3 Student Services Summer 2024 Recap and updates

- Superintendent Powers presented the successful summer programs and services delivered by the Student Services department over the summer, see page 3.

11.0 Business Arising

Nil

12.0 Action Items

Nil

13.0 Association Reports

- LDAYS: Upcoming Events, Programs and Services – Flyer attached
- Autism ON: September 2024 Updates
- Easter Seals: Upcoming Events – Flyers attached

14.0 Items for Future Agendas

-

15.0 Next Meeting: Monday October 21, 2024 @ 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 8:15 p.m.

Meeting adjourned (Legris / Connolley)

10.3 Student Services Summer 2024 Recap and updates

Elementary:

We have hit the ground running this year with inservices already happening for the 36 teachers who are New to Special Education taking place last week. This week we are bringing all Special Education teachers in for Professional Development to review the **importance of assessment for programing** and IEP development . On September 24th and 25th we will host them once again in order to review the standards of IEP writing, specifically for modified and alternative programs. Both training sessions will also introduce teachers to our new SEA process. We are expecting over 160 teachers for each of the 2 sessions of training. Other Professional development has already taken place for New to PACE and ILIT teachers.

We have opened two new PACE classes this year; a grade 5/6 at Father Henri Nowen, which now houses grades 5-8 PACE and a grade 6 class at St Julia Billiard, as the demand for PACE in our board continues to grow.

The Itinerant Autism Intervention teachers started the year providing support to the Early Facilitation students. We have four teachers each assigned to 4 schools, supporting approximately 50 students. We will be providing you with ongoing feedback on the impact of their involvement in the system.

Secondary

We had another very busy summer supporting over 700 secondary students with special education learning needs in various summer programs, including credit courses. 16 Special Education Teachers and 6 Education Workers worked together to support these students throughout the month of July.

We also partnered with REENA in July and August as 7 of our secondary students with special needs participated in REENA's summer employment transition program. Students attended various virtual and in-person employment workshops and 1:1 coaching sessions for resume development and interview preparation. A number of our students with special needs were hired to work on REENA' farm as well as 2 different golf courses in York Region. They all earned a pay cheque for the work they did there.. Finally, I am thrilled to share that the MOE notified me a few weeks ago that the proposal submitted in the Spring requesting additional Ministry funding to allow us to continue to enhance our Pathways to EmployABILITY program, was approved. We will be sharing much more information with you as soon as we have had a chance to finalize some details.

The secondary Student Services team was pleased to welcome 15 NEW Special Education Teachers at a full day training session on September 12th. On September 19th, we will also be delivering training to all of our secondary Pathways to EmployABILITY teachers.

Occupational & Physical Therapy Services:

Over the summer:

- OTPT and Mental Health Services partnered to run a two week camp called Fit Body Fit Mind for students with physical disabilities who could direct their own care.
- Professional Assessments were completed for 13 students on the OT waitlist referred for fine motor and/or sensory regulation difficulties.
- OTs & PTs worked with students with physical disabilities who required equipment for both home and school use. These students were either discharged from hospital, new to the country or new to board. They were also provided with home visits to assess home needs (e.g., safety, equipment, etc.)

Currently:

- All of our OTs and PTs are attending to the needs of our early facilitation or new to board students to facilitate a positive and safe transition to school;
- Supporting schools to develop care plans (e.g., health management plans, Personal Care Toileting plans) if required

YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 2024: 09

To: Regular Board Meeting

September 24, 2024

A meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee was held on **September 16, 2024** in a hybrid format in person at the CEC, 320 Bloomington Rd. W and virtually over Google meet.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:	N, Byrne*, A. Connolly*, A. Grella, D. Legris, S. Leckey*, R. Liscio*, J. Man*, J. Wigston, M. Xue, Y. Zhou*
Association Representatives:	M. Marcello*, C. Sandig*
Administration:	A.Cabraja, L.Lausic, J. Powers, E. Strano
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**Denotes Virtual attendance*

1. ACTION ITEM(S): NIL

2. CORRESPONDENCE: NIL

3. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS/INFORMATION:

- Therapy Services – Boomerang Health, Powered by SickKids
- Summer Mental Wellness Programs
- Student Services Summer 2023 Recap and September 2024 Updates

4. ASSOCIATION REPORTS:


- LDAYS: Upcoming Events, Programs and Services – Flyer attached
- Autism ON: September 2024 Updates
- Easter Seals: Upcoming Events – Flyers attached

5. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA:

6. NEXT MEETING: October 21, 2024

A. GRELLA, CHAIR, SEAC

**Learning Disabilities Association
York-Simcoe
YCDSB - SEAC**



ldays - Learning Disabilities
Association of York-Simcoe
The right to learn, the power to achieve

**Helga Sirola
&
Nina Shwaizer Safary**

1

Who We Are

- The Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe (LDAYS), established in 1976.
- We 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.
- In May 2023 it officially became the Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe.

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What We Do

We support individuals living with a Learning Disability:

- Advocacy
 - Resource Facilitating and Service Navigation
- Educational and Transitional Services
 - Tutoring and Transitioning to Highschool and Post Secondary
- Social and Emotional Development
 - Social Skills Group, Wellbeing and Career Counselling
- Support Groups
 - Parents, Adults and Youth Support Groups
- Community Outreach
 - Community Education Presentations and Workshops
 - Volunteer opportunities for Highschool Students to complete hours

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What is a Learning Disability

Learning disabilities are impairments in one or more of the processes we use to perceive, think, remember, communicate and/or learn, including:

- Phonological
- Language
- Visual Spatial
- Visual Motor Skills
- Processing Speed
- Memory
- Attention
- Executive Function

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The **brain** is like a filing cabinet!

Filing information & learning involve similar steps

Receive new information
Getting information to the brain (input)

Organize and store the information
Making sense of this information (organization)

Retrieve information from its storage
Storing and retrieving information (memory)

Communicate the retrieved information to others
Getting information back out (output)


Because LDs *don't affect all areas*, people with LDs can make up for weaknesses by using strengths in other areas

Based on the way a person with a learning disability processes information, some, or all these steps, can be challenged.

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Brain Processing Challenge



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CAN YOU READ THIS

An old wom an dakeb some gin gerdreab. She hab some bough left ov er, so she mabe the sha be of a little man. She mape eyes, anoseand a smil ing mouth andpl aceq curra ntsbown his front to look like du ttions. Thenshe laib hi mon a qak ingtray and put himint he oven. After a while, som ethingg rattlebat theo ven boor. She ope nedit and out ju mped the littlegin gerdreab man. She triep to catch him duthes lippeb dast her, ca llingas he ran, "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the gin gerdreab man!"

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Can you read this...?

One it ten people have p
 13071140 512471111
 It can be hard to figure out
 because you can't see it
 It's a
 the 0 123456789
 A chip with 12 2100000
 0 123456789
 123456789
 0 123456789

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Math Difficulties Sequence Multi-step Problems

Follow all four instructions below to solve the problems. You have 30 seconds to solve it:

- Multiply the third number in the first row by the seventh number in the third row.
- Add this result to the fifth number in the second row.
- Add to this total ten times the fourth number in the third row.
- Subtract the eight number in the first row from the result.

6 5 8 7 4 5 6 8 4	Answer:
3 2 1 9 5 6 4 2 1	
6 5 1 5 1 3 2 3 5	

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If students are not learning
the way we teach, we have
to teach the way they learn.

- Dunn & Dunn

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October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month.
Help stop the stigma and realize the ABILITIES!

DON'T DIS MY ABILITIES!



HELP STOP THE STIGMA AND REALIZE THE ABILITIES!
#LDMONTH

DON'T DIS MY ABILITIES!



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HELP STOP THE STIGMA AND REALIZE THE ABILITIES!
#LDMONTH

DON'T DIS MY ABILITIES!



**** Teachers should expect a lot from students with learning disabilities because we are smart! ****
- Grade 3 student

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Classroom or School Events




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Voices of LDAYS

In spirit of LD awareness month, our team of Champions share their personal stories of success, their journeys to overcome obstacles, and speak on behalf of youth and their families to increase awareness and knowledge surrounding what it means to learn differently.

"I enjoy being an LDAYS Champion because it allows me to use my voice and share my lived experiences with having a learning disability to help and empower others!"



-Megan Suggit

Interested in having a LDAYS Champion speak at your school, office, upcoming special event or to hear more about our inspirational opportunities contact us at info@ldays.org

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Message from our LDAYS Champions

<https://youtu.be/-wPsySUGBs>

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LDAYS - Plugged In

Join Anthony Savonarota and Angelica Goncalves, Ambassadors at the Learning Disabilities Association of York-Simcoe (LDAYS), as they sit down and take you through essential topics in the world of learning disabilities (LDs).

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/ldayspluggedin>

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Stop the Stigma...

Pursue Potential.

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Thank You

Contact us at:

Phone: 905-884-7933

Email: info@ldays.org

Website: www.ldays.org

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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 Chri
Engaging, Enabling, Empowering