

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

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