



Special Education Advisory Committee

November 5, 2025 12:00pm
Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Byer	Chair of the Board
Dennis Draves	Trustee
Crystal Hewey	Trustee
Larry Wiwchar	Trustee
Christine Heavens	Chair, Parent Representative
Holly Castellani	Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre (CTRC)
Shannon Costello	Director of Children's Services, CDSB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS:

Shelly Charette	Indigenous Representative, Education Director, Timiskaming First Nation
Lorette McKnight	Temiskaming Metis Community Council (TMCC)

STAFF PRESENT:

Lesleigh Dye	Director of Education
Chad Mowbray	Superintendent of Education
Jody Pecore	Special Education Administrator
Elizabeth Kazienko	Mental Health & Well-Being Lead
Andreanne Denis	Communication Officer

STAFF REGRETS:

Shawn Donovan	Principal, R. Ross Beattie Public School
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RECORDING SECRETARY:

Cathy Levasseur	Executive Assistant to Superintendent Mowbray
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CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at **12:01 p.m.**
Land Acknowledgement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

MOVED BY, Trustee Wiwchar, SECONDED BY, Trustee Draves, THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

none



ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MEETING:

MOVED BY, Trustee Wiwchar, SECONDED BY, Trustee Draves, THAT the September 10, 2025 meeting minutes be approved.

CARRIED

MOVED BY, Trustee Wiwchar, SECONDED BY, Trustee Draves, THAT the October 15, 2025, 2025 Informal Meeting Notes be approved.

CARRIED

SPECIAL EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS: A DSBONE CONTEXT

- Superintendent Mowbray presented data on the number of students with Special Education needs and break down of the numbers for the categories of need.
- EQAO Data and Graduation Rates over 4 years vs 5 years were shared for students with Special Education needs.

STATUS OF GIFTED PROGRAM:

- Superintendent Mowbray reported that DSBONE does not have a formal program, nor allocate assessment spots for students who are gifted.
- Families may choose to have an assessment done privately.
- When families come forward with a formal identification of giftedness the student will then get an IEP and teachers will provide enrichment opportunities within the classroom.
- An example would be completing challenges from CEMC (The Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing) at the University of Waterloo, which has problems of the day, week as well as STEM challenges.)
- Superintendent Mowbray reached out to other boards in Northeastern Ontario and they do not have a formalized program for students who are gifted. They all use the exact same approach as DSBONE.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

No report

AGENCY REPORT:

No report

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES:

- Jody Pecore discussed meeting with service providers and other boards across the north to discuss speech and language pathways.
- 3 gaps of service were identified by all parties:
 - Individuals diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability
 - Individuals diagnosed with autism and a global developmental delay
 - Individuals diagnosed with autism and a language impairment
- Team is currently working on developing a special needs checklist and intake form that can be referenced by administrators when registering a new student. The intent of the form is to ensure that our administrators have a clear process to follow and key questions to ask prior to accepting a new registration so we can have the correct supports in place to meet the student's needs.



CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Durham District School Board SEAC Committee

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Superintendent Mowbray will follow up with Northern College regarding pathway options for students with special education needs presentation.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, December 3 at 12:00 pm, IN PERSON, HOSTED BY Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre, 600 Toke Street, Timmins, ON

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED BY, Shannon Costello, THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:44 pm.

CARRIED