



Special Education Advisory Committee

March 4, 2026, at 12:00 pm
Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dennis Draves	Trustee
Holly Castellani	Cochrane Temiskaming Resource Centre (CTRC)
Jennifer Moorlag	Exec. Director, Student Services, Institutional Research & Registrar, Northern College
Shannon Costello	Director of Children's Services, CDSB

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REGRETS:

Lorette McKnight	Temiskaming Metis Community Council (TMCC)
Richard Kearney	General Director, Acting Education Director, Timiskaming First Nation

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
Selena Mallott	Student Support Consultant

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Shanyn Bradford	Executive Assistant
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CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at **12:00 pm**
Land Acknowledgement.

INTRODUCTIONS:

General introductions to welcome new committee member Jennifer Moorlag.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING:

None.



ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MEETING:

MOVED BY Holly Castellani, SECONDED BY Shannon Costello, THAT the January 21, 2026, meeting minutes be approved.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF SEAC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR:

Chair - call for nominations: Holly Castellani (accepted)

MOVED BY Jennifer Moorlag, SECONDED BY Trustee Draves, THAT Holly Castellani be acclaimed as Chair of the Committee.

CARRIED

Vice-Chair - call for nominations: Shannon Costello (accepted)

MOVED BY Jennifer Moorlag, SECONDED BY Trustee Draves, THAT Shannon Costello be acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE REPORT:

None

AGENCY REPORT:

Cochrane District Services Board

- Launching their 5-year plan at their board meeting at the end of the month. Will be sharing once it's approved. The main focus/goals will be on the social determinants of health, and ensuring children are meeting those milestones prior to entering school.
- An infant and mental health social determinants day symposium is planned for May 22. Dr. Jean Clinton will be there part of the day. School boards, childcare educators and agencies will be invited.

Northern College

- Are developing training modules for faculty around duty of care, accessibility, and the requirements around those. Can get push back from faculty saying inconvenient to deal with a student accommodation. Now moving from years of encouraging faculty through gentle parenting to mandatory training around the legal requirements.

PRESENTATION:

Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) Update (Student Support Consultant Selena Mallott)

- CPI is a non-violent crisis intervention training program, teaching staff skills around verbal de-escalation, understanding and recognizing behaviour levels and staff approaches, as well as safety interventions (disengagement and holding skills). The focus is on care, welfare, safety, and security.
- Have held 29 training sessions: 25 refresher courses to keep skills sharp for those previously trained, and 4 initial training sessions of two days each.
- We have 50-60 staff members trained in each region of the board
- Have moved from a paper form to a Microsoft form to collect data, for more centralized tracking and improved accuracy.



District School Board Ontario North East

- Since implementation, 49 reports have been submitted from 7 schools
- Forms track stages of verbal escalation and intervention strategies (258 strategies recorded so far), self-assessment regarding their strategies, and reported outcomes.
- Reported outcomes for verbal interventions indicate that 69% behaviour escalated – this number is not fully accurate, since if de-escalation occurs prior to risk behaviour, staff aren't filling out a form, so those events are not captured in the data.
- Safety interventions can only be used by CPI trained staff, and each includes graduated levels, and use is based on an objective assessment of the level of risk and severity of harm, used only as a last resort, and with the least restrictive manner possible
- Risks recorded in the data indicate most risk is toward staff, and include striking most commonly, such as punching, slapping, kicking, and throwing things, followed by grapples, such as grabbing wrists, pulling hair, biting, and choking.
- Disengagement skills are used to disengage a student from someone else. The most commonly used disengagement skill used is turning away.
- The most commonly used holding skill is done standing.
- The effectiveness of these are also analyzed through data collections, and tend to show that for both skills, behaviours tend to be reduced or stay the same.
- Post-crisis debriefs are also important, staff are encouraged to do so, to understand what happened, learn from it, support the student, and plan for the future. Staff can also request a debrief with the support staff, or they can request clarification if they don't understand something on a form that was submitted.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM UPDATES:

- Currently planning staffing for next year - a lengthy process of reviewing student needs, breaking down that data to develop proposals for staffing levels for next year
- Pilot project with school special education resource teachers (SERTs) supporting students with mathematics in some Gr. 5 & Gr. 7 classrooms. They are working in collaboration with classroom teachers, providing in class supports and small group interventions. They are also participating in additional professional learning in math, supported by math coaches and facilitators. They are broadening the ways of teaching, focusing on including manipulatives and visual understanding rather than just book learning, hoping to reach more students and close those learning gaps.
- In January, we were approved to open 2 additional high support classrooms in the central region. We successfully opened one in January, but were having difficulty hiring a teacher for the second. We now have a teacher hired and will be opening the second classroom next Monday at Pinecrest. That brings us to 72 high support classrooms across the board.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 12:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED BY Shannon Costello, SECONDED BY Jennifer Moorlag, THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.