
Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024
Virtual, Microsoft Teams – 6:01pm – 7:11pm

SEAC Members & Quorum Tracking

SEAC Members	March 27 th , 2024
Donna Nielsen (Chair) <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	Present
Cathy Bridson (Vice-Chair) <i>Rural FASD Support Network</i>	Present
Natalie Cameron <i>Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of SD&G</i>	Present
Karen McCallister <i>CDSBEO Trustee</i>	Present
Tom Jordan <i>Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville</i>	Present
Susie Trotter <i>Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital</i>	x
Anna Lafrance <i>Easter Seals</i>	Present
SEAC Member Alternates	
Cathie Knapp-Fisher <i>Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville</i>	x
Judith Peak <i>Rural FASD Support Network</i>	x
Kaitlyn Bissonnette <i>Children's Aid Society of the United Counties of SD&G</i>	x
Sue Wilson <i>CDSBEO Trustee, Alternate</i>	Present
Board Resource Staff	
Heather Gerber <i>Superintendent of School Effectiveness</i>	Present
Angela McNamee <i>Principal of Special Education</i>	Present
Sarah Price <i>Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Gerber</i>	Present
SEAC Quorum	6/7 – Quorum Achieved

1. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

2. Territory Acknowledgement

Principal Angie McNamee acknowledged the Territory.

3. Opening Prayer

Principal Angie McNamee led the group in opening prayer.

4. Approval of Agenda

Chair Donna Nielsen added the receipt of Autism Ontario's email regarding their invitation to attend their online event with the Canadian Museum of Nature (in French).

Moved by: Karen McAllister **Carried**

5. Receiving of approved minutes from Wednesday, February 28th, SEAC Meeting.

Minutes from the February 28th, 2024, meeting were electronically approved on March 14th, 2024. Chair Donna Nielsen asked for a motion to approve the minutes as distributed.

Moved by: Tom Jordan **Carried**

6. Living with FASD Presentation

We welcomed Rob More, Chair of Rural FASD Support Network to present videos and stories of youth living with FASD from their perspective.

[Conversations about education with FASD- YouTube- Rural FASD Support Network](#)

Shelby, Canada's first Youth Accessibility Leader with FASD, speaks with her brother about how FASD impacts their schooling and shares which strategies work for them:

- Students with FASD have to work two to three times harder than any other child to be able to get their work done.

[Conversations about adaptive skills with FASD- YouTube- Rural FASD Support Network](#)

Shelby, Canada's first Youth Accessibility Leader with FASD, speaks with her mom about how FASD impacts their adaptive skills:

- FASD is life-long, it doesn't go away.
- It's important to remember we're all human beings and we all make mistakes, especially because with FASD, we need to try harder to understand or comprehend what people might pick up quicker than we can.

[Conversations about mental health with FASD- YouTube- Rural FASD Support Network](#)

Shelby, Canada's first Youth Accessibility Leader with FASD, speaks with her friend and mentor about how FASD impacts their mental health:

- Growth mindset is a big thing - when you don't have the mindset to tell you that you can do it, you're not going to accomplish it.

- It is important to accommodate and support students with FASD to allow them to be their best selves and know that they are not alone.

Mr. More also discussed his daughter's story and her life with FASD. She continues to learn, grow, and succeed as she navigates living on her own while working at a bakery after attending the Culinary Arts Program at Algonquin College.

A final message highlighted the importance to help people understand that to receive an FASD diagnosis, an individual must be diagnosed with a minimum of three different disabilities (physical, cognitive and communicative), as well as experienced trauma within their social history. We must shift our mindsets and understand life through the lens of students with FASD and complex needs to set them up for success in life.

7. Association Updates

a. **Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville – Tom Jordan**

For the months of February and March FCSLLG celebrated the following:

- February 2024 – Black History Month
- February 28, 2024 – Pink Shirt Day for Anti-Bullying
- March 4-10, 2024 – Social Workers Week
- March 8, 2024 – International Women's Day

We continue to support children with developmental and intellectual disabilities by supporting the CICE (Community Integration through Cooperative Education). The CICE program provides an excellent college pathway for students who may have developmental and intellectual disabilities or other significant learning challenges who require modifications to curriculum and do not have the entrance requirements for other college programs.

The first stage of our application process is to attend an information session – there are 3 upcoming in-person sessions open to the public, please register should you wish to attend:

- March 20th at 5:30pm at the Brockville Public Library
- April 3rd at 5:30pm at the Brockville Campus of St. Lawrence College
- April 6th at 10:00am at the Brockville Campus of St. Lawrence College

b. **Rural FASD Support Network – Cathy Bridson**

The organization welcomed a new Marketing and Administrative Coordinator in February who will help support our online presence. We also welcomed a high school co-op student to help us engage with youth.

On March 2nd we held our first Mental Health First Aid Training at the Open Doors office. There were eight participants, and it was a great success. Our next training date is scheduled for May 1st. On March 16th, we held our monthly Caregiver Meeting where we

had a trauma-informed mindfulness instructor and certified yoga therapist present to the group about mindfulness and stress management.

We are approaching year three of our YOF (Youth Opportunities Fund) Funding. The Executive Director continues to work with Gelder Gingras & Associates on Governance and Strategic Planning.

We are in the planning phase with the Public Health Unit for a Red Shoes Run Family Day to be held on May 11th in Montague Township. As part of this, we are working with our school boards to have a presentation on May 10th at St. Luke CHS and Montague Public School with RJ Formanek, Red Shoes Rock founder, adult living with FASD, as well as Rural FASD Support Network Youth voices.

- c. *Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital – Susie Trotter***
N/A

- d. *Children’s Aid Society of the United Counties SD&G – Natalie Cameron***
Weekly cultural groups continue to take place for any Indigenous Children who are currently receiving services from the Society, including children in care.

We are encouraging our young people to attend the first ever Youth Engagement Event taking place on April 10th at the Cornwall Civic Complex. You can find more details on the Social Development Council’s Facebook page.

We are also beginning to plan our Annual General Meeting which highlights not only youth graduates from grade 8, 12, and post-secondary but those students who have had some form of academic achievement over the past year.

Development of Life Skills Workshops – specifically around home maintenance, food preparation, cooking skills, mental health and wellbeing, physical activity, and gardening.

- e. *Easter Seals – Anna Lafrance***
N/A

8. *Special Education Department Update – Angie McNamee, Principal of Special Education*

During the month of March, SERTs and Special Education Consultants have been busy reviewing Special Education student data in Aspen to ensure it is ready to be uploaded for the March 31st OnSIS. The Special Education Consultants have facilitated 2 training sessions for SERTs to review the steps in the OnSIS review procedure, shared strategies for successful transitions and introduced a guest speaker, our new deaf and hard of hearing teacher. I’m hoping to have this new addition to the department present at SEAC next year.

School teams are continuing to collaborate with feeder schools and student families to review and implement transition plans for our students with Special Education needs.

The Special Education Department continues to review schools' special education needs for next year and will continue to plan for a successful start for September. Our consultants have been meeting with school teams to support the information gathering of new students to ensure successful transition plans for students entering kindergarten to age 21.

The Special Education department has been busy reviewing and modifying the Special Education annual report. We will continue to review a few chapters of the report with the SEAC committee at each of the upcoming meetings leading into June.

9. Report to the Ministry of Education on the Provision of Special Education Programs and Services – Section Review

- Section 4: Identification, Placement and Review
- Section 6: Special Education Placements Provided by the Board

10. Correspondance Received

- SEAC of Durham Catholic District School Board Letter Minister Lecce
- Autism Ontario – Registration for Online Canadian Museum of Nature (in French) program

11. Motion to Excuse Regrets Received

Susie Trotter, Child and Youth Mental Health Services, Cornwall Community Hospital Representative notified of her absence on March 14th, 2024.

Moved by: Tom Jordan **Carried**

12. Next SEAC Meeting – Wednesday, April 17th, 2024

13. Good News Sharing

Members shared items of good news from across our eight counties.

14. Closing Prayer

Principal Angie McNamee led the group in closing prayer.

15. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by: Tom Jordan **Carried**

Topics for Presentations for 2023-2024 school year:

TOPIC	DATE
Summer Learning Program	Wednesday, August 30 th , 2023
Transition Planning, Grade 12 to Community	Wednesday, September 27 th , 2023

PPM 124 – Community Involvement Hours in Secondary Schools	Wednesday, October 25th, 2023
Structured Literacy – Through the Lens of Reading Intervention Teachers	Wednesday, November 29th, 2023
Mindful Educator Practice	Wednesday, January 24th, 2024
School Relationships with Community Police	Wednesday, February 28th, 2024
Living with FASD	Wednesday, March 27th, 2024
Kids in Care	Wednesday, April 17th, 2024