

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

## AGENDA NOVEMBER 30, 2022

**Melanie Battaglia**  
Autism Ontario

**Deborah Nightingale**  
Association for Bright Children

**Richelle De Belchior**  
Community Representative

**Ivona Novak**  
Easter Seals Ontario  
(Alternate)



**MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**  
2022 - 2025

IN GOD'S IMAGE: Growing in Knowledge, with Justice and Hope

**Geoffrey Feldman**  
Ontario Disability Coalition

**Mary Pugh**  
VOICE for Hearing Impaired

**Lisa Mason**  
Community Representative

**George Wedge**  
Easter Seals Ontario

**Lori Mastrogioiuseppe**  
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum  
Disorder (FASD)

### **TRUSTEE MEMBERS**

**Tyler Munro**  
Inclusion Action in Ontario  
Representative

**Frank D'Amico**  
**Angela Kennedy**  
**Maria Rizzo**



### **MISSION**

*The Toronto Catholic District School Board is an inclusive learning community uniting home, parish and school and rooted in the love of Christ.*

*We educate students to grow in grace and knowledge to lead lives of faith, hope and charity.*

### **VISION**

*At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

**Recording Secretary: Sophia Harris, 416-222-8282 Ext. 2293**  
**Assistant Recording Secretary: Skeeter Hinds-Barnett, 416-222-8282 Ext. 2298**

**Dr. Brendan Browne**  
Director of Education

**Nancy Crawford**  
Chair of the Board

## **Terms of Reference for the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) shall have responsibility for advising on matters pertaining to the following:

- (a) Annual SEAC planning calendar;
- (b) Annual SEAC goals and committee evaluation;
- (c) Development and delivery of TCDSB Special Education programs and services;
- (d) TCDSB Special Education Plan;
- (e) Board Learning and Improvement Plan (BLIP) as it relates to Special Education programs, Services, and student achievement;
- (f) TCDSB budget process as it relates to Special Education; and
- (g) Public access and consultation regarding matters related to Special Education programs and services.

SEAC shall also make recommendations to Board pertaining to these matters, in order to improve the lives of students with Special Education Needs and their families.

N.B: The following goals were suggested for the 2021-2022 School Year:

1. Continued work on the Special Education Plan;
2. To increase Committee membership;
3. To “Covid-proof” Testing, Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Identification Placement Review Committees (IPRCs) processes that are essential to identifying and supporting our special education students;
4. Increased depth of knowledge of Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) budget processes and advocating for Special Education needs;
5. That SEAC make recommendations to Board regarding goals for the following year that are deemed important for the Director of Education to pursue as they relate to students with special needs and the Special Services Department in the Spring of the school year; and
6. To strengthen political advocacy for special education needs for our Board and other Boards in Ontario.

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Out of our deep respect for Indigenous peoples in Canada, we acknowledge that all Toronto Catholic District School Board properties are situated upon traditional territories of the Anishinabek (a-ni-shna-bek), the Haudenosaunee (hoh-Dee-noh-Shoh-nee) Confederacy, and the Wendat peoples. We also acknowledge the land covered by Treaty 13 is held by the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Toronto is subject to The Dish with One Spoon covenant. We also recognize the contributions and enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

## **La Reconnaissance du Territoire**

*Nous témoignons du plus grand respect pour les Peuples autochtones au Canada et nous avons à cœur de souligner que tous les immeubles du Toronto Catholic District School Board sont situés sur les terres traditionnelles de la Nation Anishinabek, de la Confédération de Haudenosaunees et des Wendats. Il est également important de noter que le territoire visé par le Traité 13 est celui des Mississaugas de la Première Nation Credit et que celui de Toronto est protégé par l'accord d'« un plat à une cuillère ». Nous tenons également à rappeler la présence pérenne et l'importance des contributions des Premières Nations, des Metis et des Inuits en Ontario, et dans tout le Canada.*

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# AGENDA THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION

Wednesday, November 30, 2022

7:00 P.M.

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Pages

1. Secretary Calls the Meeting to Order
  2. Opening Prayer
  3. Land Acknowledgement
  4. Roll Call and Apologies
  5. Approval of the Agenda
  6. Election of Chair
  7. Election of Vice-Chair
  8. Declarations of Interest
  9. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Meeting held November 2, 2022
  10. Delegations
  11. Presentations
  12. Notices of Motion
- 1 - 6

- 13. **Consent and Review**
- 14. **Annual Calendar Items**
  - 14.a. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of November 30, 2022 7 - 11
- 15. **Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees**
  - 15.a. Special Education Superintendent Update – November 2022 12 - 13
- 16. **Consideration of Motions for Which Previous Notice has been Given**
- 17. **Unfinished Business**
- 18. **Matters Referred/Deferred to the Committee by the Board and Other Committees**
- 19. **List of Communications**
- 20. **Association Reports**
- 21. **Inquiries and Miscellaneous**
- 22. **Pending List**
- 23. **Adjournment**

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SESSION**

**HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

**PRESENT:****Trustees:**

N. Crawford  
A. Kennedy

**External Members:**

G. Wedge, Chair  
M. Battaglia - Virtual  
L. Mastrogiuseppe – Virtual  
L. McMahon  
D. Nightingale - Virtual  
M. Pugh – Virtual

**Non-Voting Trustee:**

Trustee Rizzo - Virtual

**Staff:**

A. Della Mora  
C. Fernandes  
M. Meehan  
V. Cocco  
A. Coke  
M. Gendron  
D. Reid  
P. Stachiw

S. Hinds-Barnett, Acting Recording Secretary

**External Guest:**

Alasdair Robertson (Parliamentarian)

### **3. Roll Call and Apologies**

Apologies were extended on behalf of Trustee Di Giorgio and Tyler Munro. Michelle Da Costa and Geoffrey Feldman were absent.

### **4. Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED by Melanie Battaglia, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that the Agenda be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

### **5. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

### **6. Approval and Signing of the Minutes**

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that the Minutes of the Meeting held October 12, 2022 be approved.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

### **10. Consent and Review**

The Chair reviewed the Order Page and the following Items were held:

- 11a) Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of November 2, 2022 – Trustee Crawford;

- 12a) Special Education Superintendent Update - November 2022 – Trustee Kennedy and Deborah Nightingale;
- 12b) Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Update (Verbal) - George Wedge, representative of Easter Seals – Trustee Crawford; and
- 13a) Consideration of Motion from Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children of Ontario, regarding Request for Information related to Aggregate Enrollment in the Withdrawal Program and the Identification of Special Education Students – Deborah Nightingale

## 11. Annual Calendar Items

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Deborah Nightingale, that Item 11a) be adopted as follows:

- 11a) **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Calendar (Draft) as of November 2, 2022** that the Annual Draft SEAC Calendar be updated as per the Minutes of the October 12, 2022 SEAC Meeting.

MOVED in AMENDMENT by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Crawford, that SEAC add "Develop draft SEAC annual agenda and goals for next school year" to the SEAC Annual Calendar for the June SEAC meeting.

On the Vote being taken, the AMENDMENT was declared

CARRIED

On the Vote being taken, the Motion, as amended, was declared

CARRIED

Trustee Rizzo joined the virtual meeting at 7:17 p.m.



**12. Reports of Officials for Information by the Board/Other Committees**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Trustee Kennedy, that Item 12a) be adopted as follows:

**12a) Special Education Superintendent Update – November 2022 received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

George Wedge relinquished the Chair to Trustee Kennedy.

MOVED by Trustee Crawford, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that Item 12b) be adopted as follows:

**12b) Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) Update (Verbal)- George Wedge, representative of Easter Seals received.**

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

George Wedge reassumed the Chair.

**13) Consideration of Motions for Which Previous Notice has been Given**

MOVED by Deborah Nightingale, seconded by Melanie Battaglia, that Item 13a) be adopted as follows:

**13a) From Deborah Nightingale, representative of Association for Bright Children of Ontario, regarding Request for Information related to Aggregate**

**Enrollment in the Withdrawal Program and the Identification of Special Education Students:**

WHEREAS: SEAC requires timely information from the Board in order to advise and make recommendations to the Board on the “development and delivery of Toronto Catholic District School Board Special Education programs and services” in order to “improve the lives of students with special education needs and their families.”

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: SEAC recommend to the Board that the Board Staff provide SEAC with the following information before December 1, 2022:

1. The number of Grade 5 gifted students who attended the gifted withdrawal program between January 2022 and June 2022;
2. The number of Grade 4 students who were identified as gifted during the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT) testing conducted in the spring of 2021; and
3. The number of Grade 4 students and Grade 5 students who were identified as gifted during the OLSAT testing conducted from September 2021 to June 2022.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

LOST ON A TIE

**20. Adjournment**

MOVED by Mary Pugh, seconded by Lori Mastrogiuseppe, that the meeting be adjourned.

On the Vote being taken, the Motion was declared

CARRIED

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SECRETARY

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CHAIR

## SEAC Annual Calendar

Month	Annual Activities/Topics	Board Events/Deadlines
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> <li>- Develop or review SEAC annual Agenda/Goals</li> <li>- Annual Safe Schools Report</li> <li>- Special Education Plan Review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FASD Awareness Day – September 9</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special Education Plan Review:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Early Identification Procedures and Intervention Strategies</li> <li>o The Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC) Process and Appeals</li> <li>o Education and Other Assessments</li> <li>o Individual Education Plans (IEP)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Review of SEAC Calendar</li> <li>- S.O. Updates</li> <li>- Association Reports (if any)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Autism Awareness (Canada)</li> <li>- Child Abuse Prevention Awareness</li> <li>- Learning Disabilities Awareness</li> <li>- World Mental Health Day (October 10)</li> <li>- EQAO Preliminary Results for Gr. 3 and 6 and OSSLT</li> <li>- Reports on Student Numbers of Elementary and Secondary School Students to be submitted to the Ministry of Education</li> <li>- Engagement and Governance Supports Discussion Guide</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Special Education Plan Review                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Roles and Responsibilities</li> <li>o Categories and Definitions of Exceptionalities</li> <li>o Provincial and Demonstration schools in Ontario</li> <li>o Transportation for Students with Special Education Needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Down Syndrome Awareness (first week)</li> <li>- EQAO Results for Gr. 3, 6, 9 (math), and Gr. 10 (OSSLT)</li> </ul>

## SEAC Annual Calendar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i></li> <li>- <i>S.O. Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Association Reports (if any)</i></li> <li>- <i>Professional Learning Plan</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Engagement and Governance Supports Discussion Guide</i></li> <li>- <i>ONSIS report on identified students</i></li> <li>- <i>Year End for School Board Financial Statements</i></li> <li>- <i>Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)</i></li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>The Board's Consultation Process</i></li> <li>o <i>Coordination of Services with Other Ministries or Agencies</i></li> <li>o <i>Special Education Plan Checklist</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i></li> <li>- <i>S.O. Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Association Reports (if any)</i></li> <li>- <i>SEAC Elections (Inaugural)</i></li> <li>- <i>SEAC Elections: Chair &amp; vice-Chair (Annual)</i></li> <li>- <i>SEAC Mass and Social</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3)</i></li> <li>- <i>Human Rights Day (December 10)</i></li> <li>- <i>Independent review of assessment and reporting</i></li> </ul>
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>The Board's General Model for Special Education</i></li> <li>o <i>Special Education Placements Provided by the Board</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Review of Draft SEAC Calendar</i></li> <li>- <i>S.O. Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Association Reports (if any)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Bell Let's Talk Day (late January)</i></li> <li>- <i>Grade 9 EQAO Testing takes place in Secondary Schools</i></li> <li>- <i>Long Term Accommodation Program Plan (ongoing)</i></li> </ul>

## SEAC Annual Calendar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Review of Policy: S.P.01 Special Education Programs and Services (next review January 2023)</i></li> <li>- <i>Reviews of Policy: A.23 Special Education Advisory Committee (next review January 2024)</i></li> <li>- <i>Priority Budget Setting Discussion (effective January 2020)</i></li> </ul>	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Special Education Staff</i></li> <li>o <i>Staff Development</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i></li> <li>- <i>S.O. Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Association Reports (if any)</i></li> <li>- <i>Special Education Plan Review</i></li> <li>- <i>Annual Accessibility Report 2021</i></li> <li>- <i>Multi-year Accessibility Plan/AODA-Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Mental Health Annual Report 2020-2021</i></li> <li>- <i>AFSS Report: Exceptionality Frameworks-Goals &amp; Outcomes, EQAO Student Achievement Data (for various exceptionalities as appropriate)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Psychology Awareness Month</i></li> <li>- <i>New term begins in Secondary semestered Schools</i></li> <li>- <i>Report Cards are distributed (Elementary and Secondary)</i></li> <li>- <i>Parent-Teacher Conferences</i></li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>The Parents' Guide to Special Education</i></li> <li>o <i>Specialized Health Support Services in School Settings</i></li> <li>o <i>The Board's Special Education Advisory Committee</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i></li> <li>- <i>S.O. Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Association Reports (if any)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Easter Seals Awareness Month</i></li> <li>- <i>World Down Syndrome Day – March 21</i></li> <li>- <i>National Social Work Week (1<sup>st</sup> week)</i></li> <li>- <i>CYW &amp; EA Appreciation Day (first Monday)</i></li> </ul>

## SEAC Annual Calendar

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Safe Schools Committee Update</i></li> <li>- <i>Mental Health Advisory Council Update</i></li> <li>- <i>Budget Approval Updates</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)</i></li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Multi-Year Accessibility Plan</i></li> <li>o <i>Protocols for Partnership with External Agencies</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i></li> <li>- <i>S.O. Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Association Reports (if any)</i></li> <li>- <i>Financial Report as at January, 2022 (GSNs)</i></li> <li>- <i>Graduation Statistics for Students with Special Education Needs Update</i></li> <li>- <i>Update to Special Education Programs for 2022-2023</i></li> <li>- <i>Budget Approval Updates</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Autism Awareness Day – April 2</i></li> <li>- <i>ONSIS report on identified students</i></li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Special Education Plan Review:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <i>Specialized Equipment</i></li> <li>o <i>Special Education Board Improvement and Equity Plan Overview</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i></li> <li>- <i>S.O. Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Association Reports (if any)</i></li> <li>- <i>March 31<sup>st</sup> Special Education student count</i></li> <li>- <i>Student Grants 2021-2022</i></li> <li>- <i>PRO Grants Application Update</i></li> <li>- <i>Budget Approval Updates</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Children's Mental Health Week (first week)</i></li> <li>- <i>Speech, Language &amp; Hearing Awareness</i></li> <li>- <i>Megan's Walk</i></li> <li>- <i>Budget Consultation</i></li> <li>- <i>EQAO Assessment</i></li> </ul>

## SEAC Annual Calendar

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Review of SEAC Calendar</i></li> <li>- <i>S.O. Updates</i></li> <li>- <i>Association Reports (if any)</i></li> <li>- <i>Budget approval update</i></li> <li>- <i>Status of PRO Grant application</i></li> <li>- <i>Develop draft SEAC Annual Agenda and Goals for next school year</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>World Sickle Cell Day – June 19</i></li> <li>- <i>National Deaf Blind Awareness</i></li> <li>- <i>EQAO Grade 3 and 6 Testing</i></li> </ul>
July		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>School Board Submits to the Ministry a balanced Budget for the following year</i></li> <li>- <i>Annual Special Education Plan Checklist and Plan updates to the Ministry of Education</i></li> </ul>
August		



# Special Education Superintendent Update

## November 30, 2022

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**Professional development** workshops were provided to our school-based education support staff on November 18. Workshops included the following:



The Board-Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBAs) presented a workshop entitled, *Be the Reinforcer: Pairing 101*. The workshop guided participants through the basic principles of reinforcement and pairing, which are key principles in Applied Behaviour Analysis.



The Psychology members on the Autism Team presented a workshop entitled, *Understanding & Addressing Challenging Behaviours of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder*. The workshop focused on understanding the functions of challenging behavior and identifying effective strategies to implement change.



School Mental Health Ontario (SMHO) – Foundations of early identification and support for students struggling with mental health.



TCDSB Building and Nurturing Capacity in Kindergarten (BANCK) interdisciplinary team presented evidence-based classroom practices and strategies.

Crisis Prevention Intervention Training - Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI) training was provided with a focus on crisis intervention strategies such as de-escalation techniques



The Assistive Technology Team (ATT) presented *Overview of Accessibility Apps* and *Accessibility in Depth with Read&Write and OrbitNote*.

140 elementary and secondary support staff received a workshop on *Taking Care of You* in collaboration with *Strong Minds Strong Kids: Psychology Foundation*. This workshop provided staff with practical strategies and resources to help manage life's ups and downs. They explored opportunities for promoting their own mental health and well-being in their workplace and home. They discussed what stress is, the physiology of stress, and how to engage in positive coping mechanisms.

### Enhanced Autism Training



The TCDSB has received funding from the Ministry of Education to offer Enhanced Autism Training through the Geneva Centre this year. This is an opportunity for staff to take one of two courses, *Charting a Path to Success in Your Classroom* or *Registered Behaviour Training (RBT T40hr) Online Training course*.

### Mental Health – Safe Schools Symposium Presentation

During the Safe Schools Symposium at both the elementary and secondary panels, the mental health team presented to 200-250 students on ***The Power of Healthy Relationships***. With a focus on the health benefits of social connections, the discussion bridged to the importance of a sense of belonging in the classroom and in our schools. A group activity of a snowball toss engaged all students in suggesting concrete examples on how to build a stronger community together.

### Social Work - Angel Tree Charitable Donations

In the spirit of the Advent season, the following message was shared with the staff at the Catholic Education Centre:

Each year at this time, The Social Work Department Angel Tree provides an opportunity to reflect upon the good fortune that God has blessed us with and to reach out with compassion to TCDSB families in need. This Christmas we remember that the pandemic has highlighted significant needs throughout our system. Please help us deliver some joy and cheer to our students and families.

Look for the Angel Tree in the atrium on the second floor. Tags for donations will be placed on the tree December 5th, 2022. We would like to remind our students and families that we are a connected TCDSB family and that we hold them in our thoughts and prayers this Christmas and always.