



SEAC MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Via Teams Meeting

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Community Living Chatham-Kent	Steve Stokley
Community Living Wallaceburg	Patricia Peters
Suicide Prevention Committee Sarnia-Lambton	Michelle Parks
Pathways Health Centre for Children	Melanie Coll
Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County	Garth Lepine
Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent	TBD
Community Living Sarnia-Lambton	Kristy Bodkin
Trustees	Jennifer McCann Brenda Rumble
Principal/Vice Principal Representatives	Karoline Lobsinger Alishia Thompson (VP)
Board Advisors	Jennifer Morrow Stephanie Orrange Lori Brush Katie Papanayotou Lisa Thompson-Power Hollie Sparling
Guests	Dr. Vince MacDonald
Regrets	Patricia Peters Hollie Sparling



A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Welcome & Opening Prayer

2. Adoption of SEAC Agenda - October 20, 2025 (Motion)

Motion By Michelle Parks and seconded by Melanie Coll to adopt the SEAC Agenda of Monday, October 20, 2025. **Carried.**

3. Review of SEAC Minutes - September 15, 2025 (Motion)

Motion By Steve Stokley and seconded by Michelle Parks to adopt the SEAC Minutes of Monday, September 15, 2025. **Carried.**

B. PRESENTATIONS.

1. Dr. Vince MacDonald - Multi-Year Strategic Plan

- The current strategic plan has been in place since 2019. The new plan will remain in place for the next three years. To ensure everyone has a voice, focus groups within the board and community groups will be invited to have input. Questions asked will focus on current practice and needs with respect to all people served within the board. The community survey will be shared on October 27, 2025. It will be open for input for two weeks. Everyone can respond to the survey.
- The goal is for the first draft of the new strategic plan to be completed for review at the end November 2025. The final draft will be presented to the Trustees in March 2026.
- Input sought from SEAC members tonight focused on: What are you most proud of and, what is SCCDSB doing well regarding special education? What do you hope to see completed within the next three years regarding special education?
- Responses from SEAC members are as follows:

Question #1 - What are you most proud of and, what is SCCDSB doing well regarding special education?

- Communication is amazing.
- The board is very progressive regarding new ideas and listening to community agencies/partnering, etc. Changes are made to help students and partners.
- Partnering agencies see the board as very progressive and innovative. Views the board as building inclusive opportunities for students; new ideas always considered.



- Appreciates the mental health initiatives and approach to a trauma informed model with regard to mental health and wellbeing. Views the board as being proactive with mental health for staff and students. SCCDSB is a safe and inclusive place where everyone belongs.
- Appreciates the senior team who puts things together for the board and makes all the above happen for staff and students.
- Acknowledges the social emotional learning focus groups to ensure adults are well so that students are well.

Question 2 - What do you hope to see completed within the next 3 years regarding special education?

- More parent involvement.
- Student home and parish triangle; improve all three working together more
- Peer Mentors - would like to see more of this

C. ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. Community Living Chatham-Kent Steve Stokley

- October 20, 2025 family network - make chicken pot pies, do baking, share experiences; will be held at 101 Stewart Street, Chatham at 6 p.m.

2. Community Living Wallaceburg Patricia Peters

- N/A

3. Suicide Prevention Committee Sarnia-Lambton Michelle Parks

- The committee has always been under the umbrella of the Family Counselling Centre and are now in process of applying for their own charity status.
- Safe Talk training is offered free of charge. If interested, email Michelle who will have their coordinator make arrangements.

4. Pathways Health Centre for Children Melanie Coll

- Family engagement coordinator is hosting an event in collaboration with both treatment centres in Sarnia as well as the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent. The event is "Positive Advocacy Strategies for School". Parents can gather information as to how to be better prepared to support their kids in school meetings. It will take place for Pathways families in person on November 3, 2025. There is also a virtual option.
- Hosting the annual Secret Santa Shop. It will be open in Sarnia from November 14-23, 2025. They are in need of many volunteers. Students can get volunteer



hours to play Santa's elves if they are interested. Adults can volunteer as Santa's elves as well. Information can be found on their website.

5. Down Syndrome Association of Lambton County Garth Lepine

- On the weekend the DSAO had our Down Right Inspiring conference. Keynote speaker was Adelle Purdham, educator at Trent University, writer and mother of daughter with Down Syndrome, she summarized exerts from her book, 'I Don't Do Disability and Other Lies I've Told Myself,' and DSAO launched its EducAide program for parents to navigate IPRC/IEP.
- Cliff Erickson Fundraising Show on November 21, 2025 (info will be sent out).

6. Learning Disabilities Association of Chatham-Kent TBD

- N/A

7. Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

Kristy Bodkin

- November calendar for centre based group respite comes out this week
- Hoping to run a holiday day camp during the holiday break over Christmas. The dates being looked at are December 22, 23, 29, 30, and 31, 2025.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

E. NEW BUSINESS (Motion)

F. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Mental Health and Wellbeing Updates

Lori Brush

- SEL & Collaborative Inquiry process - 6 groups of administrators from all our schools met where the big idea explored was "How do we build and maintain safe, inclusive, accepting learning environments?" All students have a space and place where their voices are heard.
- EKAN Adult Professional Learning Series - Ezhi Kendmang Anishnaabe Naadziwin (EKAN): Sharing the Knowledge of the People. Three land-based learning sessions designed to increase understanding of Anishinabek, increase self-awareness, and strengthen skills.
- Upcoming Training for Staff:
 - Trauma & Resilience Specialist 2 day training where 35 people are being trained in trauma and resilience education on December 15-16, 2025.
 - Suicide Risk Assessment training



- Right Time Right Care referral process training for SCCDSB and Linck
- Eating Disorders - Weight Stigma training
- Parent Engagement - Parents were asked what they wanted to learn more about. The top three responses were: managing stress and anxiety; positive relationships and managing conflict; and managing digital technology. Work is being done on how to get this information to parents.
- Staff are busy in schools. Compared to this time last year, there has been an increase in Common Referrals by 66.35% and in Self Referrals by 44%.

2. Ministry Professional Development requirements Stephanie Orrange

- The Ministry has shared the following topics of professional development that must be completed by staff members of the board:
 - Keeping Schools Safe - November 21, 2025 PD day
 - Tackling Racism - October 10, 2025 PD day
 - Artificial Intelligence - September 19 and October 10, 2025 PD days
 - School Resource Officer Program - reminding school staff about police and board protocols and what the partnership looks like; also lock down and bomb drill requirements. Additional information will be shared with all schools.

G. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD

- Recent regional meeting where the discussion focused on how to protect the Trustee position
- Participating in the work being done on the new strategic plan
- Working with new Student Trustees
- The last Board meeting was held at the new Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sarnia

H. QUESTIONS ASKED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Brenda Rumble asked if we are familiar with "Partners for Planning"? If not, would you like the site? It is a local support resource for those caring for others with disabilities. Community Living CK is associated with them as well.
- Brenda to look into a contact who could present to SEAC. Brenda can connect them with Stephanie Orrange.
- Michelle asked if SEAC can support protecting trustees with the MOE.

I. PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

J. FUTURE MEETING DATES



Monday, November 17, 2025

Monday, December 15, 2025

Monday, January 19, 2026

Monday, February 9, 2026

Monday, March 23, 2026

Monday, April 13, 2026

Monday, May 11, 2026

Monday, June 15, 2026

K. CLOSING PRAYER

L. ADJOURNMENT (Motion)

Motion By Melanie Coll and seconded by Steve Stokley to adjourn the SEAC meeting of Monday, October 20, 2025 at 6:20 p.m. **Carried.**