



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday April 6, 2023

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn, and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.

AGENDA

Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEAD				
A-1 Opening 6:00-6:05				
(a) Welcome/ Land Acknowledgement Statement			√	L. DeJong
(b) Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Reminder of Closed Caption Feature on Teams			√	L. DeJong
(c) Agenda Additions/ Deletions/ Approvals		√	√	L. DeJong
LEARN				
B-1 Timed Items 6:05 – 7:05				
(a) Moving towards Inclusion - Dr. Sheila Bennett	√	√		L. Thompson
(b)				
(c)				

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Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEAD				
C-1 Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings 7:05 – 7:25				
(a) Approval of Minutes from March 2, 2023*			√	L. DeJong
(b) A Day in the Life of the Instructional Coach - Specialized Services	√	√		C. Vrugteman/C. Guzar
(c)				
(d)				
LEARN				
D-1 New Business 7:25 – 7:40				
(a) Educational Assistant - Allocation Process	√	√		J. Senior
(b)				
Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	
LEAD				
E-1 Other Business 7:40 – 7:50				
(a) Schedule of Finance Committee Meetings Budget reviews held at Finance Committee Meetings on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday April 17, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m., Education Centre or via YouTube live link 	√		√	L. Thompson

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday June 12, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m., Education Centre or via YouTube live link 				
(b)				
Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
INSPIRE				
F-1 Standing Items 7:50 – 8:00				
<p>Policies Out for Comment</p> <p>Please send all comments and feedback regarding the following policies to policies@granderie.ca</p> <p>Comments due by: Wednesday April 19, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Related Fundraising Policy (BU-03) Major Construction Policy (FA-01) New Construction Policy (FA-02) Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities Policy (FA-03) Community Use of Schools Policy (FA-04) Transition Committee Policy (FA-09) Green Construction Policy (FA-10) Community Planning and Facility Partnership Policy (FA-11) Inclement Weather Policy (TR-01) 	√			K. Jones

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Transportation Policy (TR-02) • Fundraising Policy (SO-01) 				
(a) Trustee Updates	√			T. Waldschmidt / L. Whiton
(b) Chair/Vice-Chair Updates	√			L. DeJong / K. Jones
Autism Month – Celebrate the Spectrum - https://www.autismontario.com/civicrm/ mailing/view?res et=1&id=1533&cid=404954&cs=52c7f7e42cabf7871a134929c5416ae4_1678813647_168				
Item	Info.	Dia.	Res.	Responsibility
LEARN LEAD INSPIRE				
G-1 Information Items				
(a) SEAC Presentation Interest Form*	√			L. DeJong/K. Jones
(b) Upcoming Virtual Presentation - Staying Connected: Understanding (Cyber)Bullying in a Wireless World*	√			L. Thompson
(c) June SEAC meeting	√			L. DeJong/K. Jones
(d) PAAC on SEAC Resource Guide on Special Education Funding *	√			L. Thompson
(e)				

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LEARN LEAD INSPIRE

H-1 Community Updates

(a)

LEARN LEAD INSPIRE

I-1 Correspondence – 8:00 – 8:05

(a) Letter from Near North DSB re. SIP Claim Funding*

√

L. DeJong

(b) LDAO Circular for April (if available)*

√

L. DeJong

Item

Info.

Dia.

Res.

Responsibility

INSPIRE

J-1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

(a) OSSTF Inclusion Symposium - Summary Report (present when it arrives)

(b) Grand Erie's Annual Learning and Operating Plan - Mid-Year Update (May)

(c) Street Data - Summer Programs (May 2023)

(d) Report on the Right to Read – Update (June 2023)

(e) Student Success - Update on Destreaming in Grand Erie (June 2023)

(f) Belonging Project (May 2023)

(g) Self-Contained Classroom Planning - update 2023-24

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(h) Dates for 2023-24 SEAC Meetings (June 2023)				
(i)				
(j)				
K-1 Next Meeting				
Thursday May 4, 2023 6:00 p.m. MS Teams	√	√	√	L. DeJong
L-1 Adjournment				
Meeting adjourned at p.m.			√	L. DeJong

Note: Column Abbreviations

* Attachments to the agenda

Info. Item for information only

Dia. Item for dialogue

Res. Item for resolution or recommendation

SSMT Specialized Services Management Team

AGENDA ITEM(S)

Standing:

- LDAO SEAC Circular September, November, February, April and June (as available).



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday March 2, 2023

6:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Chair:	L. DeJong, Social Worker, Lansdowne Children's Centre
Community Reps:	M. Gatopoulos K. Jones L. Nydam W. Rose T. Sault
Trustees:	T. Waldschmidt L. Whiton P. Bagchee, Manager, Mental Health and Well-Being J. Hooper, Principal Leader Mental Health Education and Student Support Services
Grand Erie Staff:	F. Lainson, Program Co-ordinator Specialized Services J. Senior, Principal Leader, Specialized Services L. Sheppard, Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Coordinator L. Thompson, Superintendent of Education A. Haidar, Information Technology T. Buchanan, Supervisor of Employment Supports, Community Living Brant
Organizations/ Agencies:	L. Boswell, Community Navigator, Contact Brant C. Gilman, Easter Seals Ontario C. Stefanelli, Program Manager, Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services R. Vriends, Autism Ontario
Absent with regrets:	K. Kelly, Community Representative
Recording Secretary:	J. Valstar, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Education

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Welcome / Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Chair DeJong called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

A reminder to attendees to mute their microphones and/or turn off the livestream as to not cause feedback on the livestream.

(c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

H-1(a): Accessibility project on birding trails

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: W. Rose

THAT the March 2, 2023 Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **OnSIS Data for Students with Special Education Needs 2021-22**

Superintendent Thompson presented the OnSIS data for students with special needs from the 2021-22 school year. She provided provincial data to provide context and support further discussion.



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MINUTES

C - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

(a) **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by: W. Rose

Seconded by: L. Nydam

THAT the Minutes dated February 2, 2023 be approved, as presented

Carried

(b) **Communication Practices between Home and School**

Principal Leader, Specialized Services J. Senior presented the process for communication between home and school.

D - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Overview of changes in Self-contained programs**

Principal Leader, Specialized Services J. Senior, Program Coordinator, Specialized Services F. Lainson, and ABA Coordinator L. Sheppard presented an overview of the changes to some of the self-contained classrooms for the 2023-24 school year.

(b) **Budget input – completion of MS Form**

Superintendent Thompson shared that the Budget Input Survey will be sent out to members the following week.

E - 1 **Other Business**

(a) **Standard 18 – Coordination of Services with other Ministries or Agencies**

Principal Leader, Specialized Service J. Hooper presented Standard 18 of the Special Education Plan with the proposed changes and provided opportunity for SEAC input.

F - 1 **Standing Items**

(a) **Policies Out for Comment** - Nil

(b) **Trustee Updates**

Trustee Waldschmidt and Trustee Whiton gave their respective updates.

(c) **Chair/Vice Chair Updates**

Chair DeJong and Vice-Chair Jones gave their respective updates.

G - 1 **Information Items** - Nil

H - 1 **Community Updates**

(a) **Accessibility project on birding trails**

K. Jones shared information about a project exploring ways to make birding trails more accessible with committee members.

I - 1 **Correspondence**

(a) **LDAO Circular February 2023**

Presented as printed



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MINUTES

J - 1 **Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning**

- (a) A Day in the Life of a Learning Resource Teacher
- (b) OSSTF Inclusion Symposium – Summary Report
- (c) Street Data – Summer Programs
- (d) Report on the Right to Read – Update
- (e) Student Success – Feedback on Destreaming in Grand Erie
- (f) Belonging project (P. Bagchee)
- (g) Updates on self-contained classrooms
- (h) Dates for the 2023-24 SEAC meetings

K - 1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday April 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., MS Teams Virtual Meeting.

L - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: L. Boswell

Seconded by: M. Gatopoulos

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Carried



1. Content/Topic/Item
(must be related to students with special education needs)

2. What's it all about – brief description

3. Length of presentation

4. Preferred month to present

 To attract more attention and response, we suggest adding an immersive theme style.



Presentations to Speci...

Presentations to Special Education Advisory Committee

View all 



Background music

5. Name of SEAC member submitting the request

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.





Grand Erie Presents a Virtual Joint Presentation by:
SEAC, IEAC, GEPIC and Student Senate

Thursday, April 27, 2023
From 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.



Staying Connected: Understanding (Cyber)Bullying in a Wireless World

**With Guest Speaker
Dr. Danielle Law**

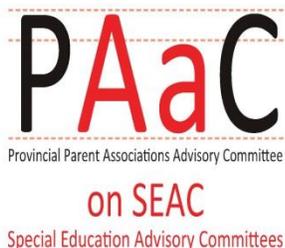
(Cyber)bullying and aggression are not new experiences among children and youth. What is new, however, is what we have learned about why they engage in that behaviour. Drawing from over a decade of work with children and youth, let's take a look at some of these underlying reasons and motivations and what we can do to create more caring connections.

About Dr. Danielle Law, PhD

Associate Professor, Psychology and Youth and Children's Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University

Dr. Danielle Law is an Associate Professor in Psychology and Youth and Children's Studies at the Brantford campus of Wilfrid Laurier University. She is also the director of the Child and Adolescent Research and Education (CARE) Lab where she guides a team of students on various research and knowledge sharing initiatives. Her research broadly focuses on the social-emotional growth of children, adolescents, and emerging adults as they develop in this technologically advancing world.

Click here to connect to the Virtual Meeting



Members: • Association for Bright Children • Autism Ontario • Centre for ADHD Awareness Canada • Community Living Ontario • Down Syndrome Association of Ontario • Easter Seals Ontario • Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Ontario Network of Expertise • Hydrocephalus Canada • Inclusion Action in Ontario • Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario • Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders • Ontario Brain Injury Association • VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Affiliate members: • Association Francophone de Parents d'Enfants Dyslexiques ou ayant tout autre trouble d'apprentissage • Epilepsy Ontario • Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy • Parents for Children's Mental Health • Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada • VIEWS for the Visually Impaired

PAAC on SEAC c/o Easter Seals Ontario, One Concorde Gate, Suite 700, Toronto, M3C 3N6
Email: info@paac-seac.ca Website: www.paac-seac.ca

PAAC on SEAC Resource Guide on Special Education Funding

Tip Sheet / Key Messages & Introduction

PAAC on SEAC has created this resource as an introduction and tip sheet to our full Resource Guide on Special Education Funding which we update annually. We know that many SEAC members are new to the process of SEAC and their role in the school board budget process. This quick tip sheet should be used to familiarize SEAC members with special education funding; however using it in conjunction with the full Resource Guide is recommended. Even if PAAC's annual Resource Guide is not completely updated and posted prior to the current year SEAC budget process for your board, the information contained therein that is not strictly about financial breakdowns of Ministry Funding is still current and valuable. Please note that the Ministry updates financial information with new funding regularly and SEAC members should regularly ask about funding at their meetings and check Ministry information to stay up to date.

Every year, the Ministry of Education posts documents and data about education funding – including the various components of the Special Education Grant – at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/education-funding-2022-23>. Note that 2023-24 information has not been posted as of the date of publication on this resource, but can be found simply by searching “Ministry of Education Funding Ontario” or through links on the PAAC on SEAC website. These documents contain the detailed information boards need in order to prepare their budgets, which in accordance with Regulation 464/97, SEAC members are to have the opportunity to participate in the special education budget planning process.

This tip sheet, the full Resource Guide on Special Education Funding and the Effective Practices Handbook (on the PAAC on SEAC website) will help SEAC members learn about their roles and responsibilities, including the budget process.

At the bottom of this sheet there is a full list with links of important PAAC documents and Ministry of Education documents for the 2022-23 year – please note that these links may change once the 2023-24 documents are released but the titles of the documents will be searchable once posted.

Budget Process Key Messages & Tips:

- Each Board has a different process for developing budgets, sometimes including budget committees that SEAC can participate in.
- Boards should provide training for SEAC members on special education funding, regular updates when financials are submitted, and information about board financial statements and the budget process.
- SEAC members should be able to understand the information that is being presented to them regarding board budgets and financials.
- SEAC members should not make recommendations on budgets unless they are provided with complete information about current Ministry education funding and the amounts of grant allocations.
- When considering Budget information, SEAC members should have access to Board data on all students who are receiving special education programs & services including up to date numbers on students who have been IPRC'd, number of students who have IEPs, students who have neither IPRC or IEP but are still receiving special education programs and services.

Special Education Funding Key Messages & Tips:

- Money from the Special Education Grant should be spent only on special education programs & services.
- Boards receive funding for all students through the Foundation Grant along with many other special purpose grants and funding envelopes. Money from many different sources is meant to be spent on students who receive special education programs & services.
- When reviewing special education budgets, SEACs should also be considering all board expenditures to ensure that funding from other grants has been used as intended, and that special education funding is not spent unnecessarily.
- Special Education Grants are intended to support only the incremental additional costs of special education programs & services. Therefore special education expenses should always exceed revenues – this does not mean that special education is “overspent”.
- Most per-pupil grant amounts set by the province are multiplied by the total population of each school board, which is why enrollment will have a large impact on the grants Boards receive from the province.
- Funding Data for the entire province is listed under Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and is posted annually on Ministry website – this data contains individualized board projected funding for next year, revised numbers for the current year, and finalized numbers for the past three years, along with enrolment changes.

SEAC Steps for Preparation for Board Budget Process:

- All SEAC members should have training on board budget process and special education financials, including a breakdown of the components of the Special Education Grant.
- SEAC members should receive budget information from their board along with detailed breakdowns on special education in a manner that's easy to understand, that includes revenues (**especially deferred special education revenues**), changes to revenue amounts from previous years, expenditures by category including staffing breakdowns, and links between expenditures and revenues. **Note: Deferred Revenue is funding received from Ministry specifically for special education that Boards have not spent in current fiscal year and can carry over.**
- SEAC members should have access to current board data on student populations and specifically numbers of students receiving special education programs and services.
- SEAC members should review the PAAC on SEAC Funding Resource Guide, Ministry of Education Grant Regulations and allocation amounts for their board, and their boards current year Special Education Grant information, and the Ministry Uniform Code of Accounts (this provides a clear list of items that are to be 100% paid for with special education funds).
- SEAC members should have a good understanding of current budget stressors along with the most anticipated needs for students receiving special education programs & services in order to provide solid feedback to the budget process.
- SEAC members should have the opportunity to carefully review special education budget information and ask questions and provide feedback in accordance with Regulation 464/97, which includes providing feedback directly to Board Trustees as part of the public consultation on school board budget process.

FINAL KEY MESSAGES & QUESTIONS

- **To properly fulfill their role, SEAC members must be informed of the provincial information on education funding, and specifically on your boards' special education needs and budgets. As noted this information is updated regularly & members should ask their board & track through Ministry**
- **Using this vital information, SEAC members should make sure that special education funding is spent only on special education.**
- **Remember that students who receive special education programs & services are also students of the board and as such, special education expenses should always exceed revenues. This does not mean there is a deficit or that special education is "overspent" – it should not result in cuts to special education supports.**
- **Participating in the budget process of your board is one of your key responsibilities as a SEAC member – it is vital that you use your position to provide advice and recommendations on behalf of your organization during this process.**
- **Under the Ontario Human Rights Code, school boards have a duty to accommodate – to find the money necessary for students with disabilities - unless they can prove undue hardship.**

Resources:

- PAAC on SEAC Website <https://www.paac-seac.ca>
- PAAC on SEAC Funding Resource Guide <https://www.paac-seac.ca/resources/paac-on-seac-funding-resource-guide-2022/>
- PAAC on SEAC Effective Practices Handbook for SEAC Members <https://www.paac-seac.ca/home/paac-on-seac-effective-practices-handbook-for-seac-members/>
- Ontario Ministry of Education – Education Funding 2022-23 <https://www.ontario.ca/page/education-funding-2022-23>
- Ontario Ministry of Education Technical Paper 2022-23 <https://files.ontario.ca/edu-2022-23-technical-paper-en-2022-03-15.pdf>
- Ontario Ministry of Education Uniform code of Accounts https://efis.fma.csc.gov.on.ca/faab/Code_of_Accounts.htm
- Ontario Ministry of Education Grants for Student Needs Projections <https://files.ontario.ca/edu-2223-gsnprojections-en-2022-02-17.pdf>
- Ontario Ministry of Education Guide to Special Education Grant <https://files.ontario.ca/edu-2223-speded-guide-en-2022-03-21.pdf>

February 14, 2023

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
15th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce:

Re: Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of the Near North District School Board would like to send this letter of support for the concerns expressed by the Durham District School Board regarding funding of the Special Incidence Portion (SIP)

Like other school boards in Ontario would like to remind you that in the spring of 2018 the previous government announced an increase to the SIP claim funding of \$11,016.00, bringing that funding amount up to \$38,016.00 per student from the previous funding amount of \$27,000.00. On August 24, 2018, after school board budgets were prepared and approved, the Ministry announced that the previously-announced increase would be clawed back. Currently the funding received from the Ministry is \$28,803.00, bringing the net increase to \$1,803.00 per student.

SEACs across the province were dismayed by the Ministry of Education decision to claw back that increase, given that the true costs of supporting a student with a SIP claim are significantly higher than the allocated amount. For example, the average cost, including salary and benefits, for an Educational Assistant at the Near North District School Board is \$52,397. A student who requires 2 plus Educational Assistants to support their learning needs would be at a cost of \$104,794 plus.

In the 2021-2022 school year alone, the NNDSB allocated \$707,634 more than was given in Special Education Grants to Special Education services. Some of the revenue the NNDSB has used to fund this gap is the Local Priorities Funding, which, as you are aware, is not guaranteed annual funding from the Province.

Furthermore, when you take into account the claw-back of the SIP funding increase in 2018, combined with the reallocation of the Special Education Per Pupil Amount, this resulted in a net **decrease** in funding and a further increase in the NNDSB's Special Education deficit. In 2017, the Auditor General highlighted that the Ministry of Education's "[f]unding formula uses out-of-date benchmarks and is due for a comprehensive external review."

Specifically, we urge the Minister to consider:

- A minimum 5% increase in the Special Education funding that will better align with the true costs associated with SIP claims to support our students and increase funding accordingly.
- That the Special Education funding model be reviewed annually and changed to accurately reflect the increasing and more complex needs of students with special needs.
- An improved process that will eliminate the need for such intensive applications or provide support for Boards to complete the SIP applications. It takes countless staff hours per SIP application, which impacts the time our trained Special Education teachers and leads are away from their other important work supporting high-needs students.

Sincerely,



Albina Lavictoire,
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee,
Near North District School Board



Erika Lougheed,
Chair, Board of Trustees,
Near North District School Board

cc: Chairs of all Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees