



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

S.E.A.C. Minutes

Date: Wednesday April 29, 2026

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/soq-erfr-vya>

Location: STEAM Lab
Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

SEAC Members: Laurie Barbeau, Tina Coombs, John Caputo, Theresa Coccimiglio, Mike Duclos, Wayne Greco, Mary Ogenyi-Igoche, Rachelle Lambert, Tiana Rushon

SEAC Alternative Members: Kasia Ceglarz, Sherri Kitts, Anna Moody, Melissa Puzak, Kathleen Rosilius

HSCDSB Staff: Jared Lambert, Franca Spadafora, Rosanne Zagordo

Student Trustees and Guests: Abbie Dasa-Kumar, Michaela Kyle, Jaimee Minelli, Alexander Oraziotti, Dom Rosso

Regrets: Irma DiRenzo, Mike Duclos, Fil Lettieri, Jacques Ribout, Sandra Turco

| AGENDA ITEMS | | ACTION | WHO | WHEN |
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| 1. | WELCOME LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PRAYER | Land Acknowledgement Catholicity - HSCDSB | Franda Spadafora Rosanne Zagordo | |

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| 2. | ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were accepted. | Rachelle Lambert Wayne Greco | |
| | Business arising from the Previous minutes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All SEAC meetings are to be in the Board room and open to the public, either electronically or in person. Alternative sites for meetings must have the means to support a virtual meeting. Meetings start at 4:00 pm and end on or before 6:00 pm. Extensions are by motion and approval of the committee. Delegations and presentations are a maximum of 30 minutes. Extensions are by motion and approval of the committee. Orientation of new members of the committee shall occur before the first meeting and for all committee members at the beginning of a new term. Quorum is defined at 50% plus one. Committee members are to sign off on Conflict of Interest Statements and Confidentiality Statements. Committee profile page to be completed and attached to the minutes, annually. Annual Calendar/work plan to be created by staff. Adjustments to the order of the agenda were submitted: Call to order, Land Acknowledgement, Prayer, attendance, Agenda, Pecuniary Interest, Minutes, Business Arising, Presentations/Delegations, Reports, Information Items, Closing Prayer and Adjournment. | Wayne Greco Rachelle Lambert | |
| 3. | AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES | | | |
| 4. | GUEST(s): REPORTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMC Student Trustees STEAM Lab Staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SMC Student Trustee report April 2026 SEAC Report STEAM presentation and tour was provided to SEAC members. | Abbie Daskumar Mikaela Kyle Jaimee Minelli Dom Rosso | |
| 5. | MINISTRY UPDATES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrepreneurship Education Pilot Projects - Provincial Showcase Events The Entrepreneurship Education Pilot Program, in partnership with Skills Ontario, entrepreneurs in Grades 7 – 12 from across the province have the opportunity to showcase their entrepreneurial projects and ideas to industry and community partners, educators, students and parents. | Franca Spadafora | |

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| | | <p>May 5th an in-person event will take place at the Toronto Congress Centre. We have students from SMC who will be attending again this year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Supporting Math Achievement and Spring Readiness● Preparations for Spring EQAO Math Assessments As preparations are underway for the spring EQAO assessments from May 5 to June 24, 2026, including Primary and Junior Division assessments from May 5 to June 9 and the Grade 9 Mathematics assessment from May 28 to June 24● Take Action on Litter with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks!● Ontario is preparing for the seventh annual Provincial Day of Action on Litter, taking place on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. This day is an opportunity for students and schools across the province to come together to raise awareness about litter and its impacts on wildlife, our communities, and the environment — as well as the many things that each of us can do to keep Ontario clean, beautiful and safe● Nominate an Educator who Champions Democratic Values, Civic Engagement● Teachers play a critical role in shaping the very best version of ourselves, inspiring young people to be curious, ask questions and eventually help set the ground rules for how Ontarians can live together in harmony in their communities. In recognition of this vital work, a new award – the Elizabeth Dowdeswell Award for Advancing Democracy Through Education, named in honour of the former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario – celebrates outstanding Ontario elementary and secondary school educators who champion democratic values and civic engagement through innovative teaching practices.● Every year, two exceptional recipients will be recognized, each receiving \$7,500 to support the development of their educational projects and initiatives. If you know a teacher who is deserving of this honour, please nominate them at | | |
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| | | <p>https://www.ontario.ca/page/honours-andawards-education by May 31, 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement Starting in the 2026-27 school year, students who entered Grade 9 in the 2025-26 school year and onwards must complete a Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement to earn their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Making informed decisions about economic and financial matters has become an increasingly complex undertaking in the modern world. Students need to be equipped with essential financial skills and knowledge for their future success. ● Students will complete this requirement as part of their compulsory Grade 10 Career Studies (GLC20) course. | | |
| 6. | <p>SEAC BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MASCE UPDATES ● Letter from TDSB ● Letter from HSCDSB ● SEAC profiles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SEAC LETTER.pdf from Toronto DSB ● Letter from HSCDSB was sent to the Minister of Education | John Caputo | |
| 7. | BUSINESS CARRIED FORWARD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Violence Incident Report was reviewed and questions answered. | Franca Spadafora | |
| 8. | SUPERINTENDENT, COORDINATOR and MENTAL HEALTH LEADER'S REPORTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Projected Needs are in full swing. School meetings are arranged to discuss needs at each school. ● Heidi Zagordo and Tiziana Palumbo were part of the Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC) consultation regarding website improvements. They provided a lot of input towards improving the website. Transition Resource Guide website at www.transitionresourceguide.ca. The website outlines resources designed to support students with disabilities, as they prepare for life beyond high school ● Eighty seven people across the community participated in Level 1 Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VITRA) over the last two days. The training is a multi-agency, data driven approach designed to help communities and professionals | Jared Lambert Franca Spadafora Rosanne Zagordo | |

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| | | (schools, mental health, police) identify and assess the risk of violence to prevent harmful incidents | | |
| 9. | ASSOCIATION REPORTS | | | |
| a. | NORTH SHORE TRIBAL COUNCIL (R. Lambert) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings for students to transition to elementary school are in progress. Many parents are undecided as to which board they are registering at. | Rachelle Lambert | |
| b. | AUTISM ONTARIO SSM CHAPTER PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (I. DiRenzo) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report at this time. | Irma Drenzo | |
| c. | ALGOMA FAMILY SERVICES (T. Coccimiglio) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's mental health week starting May 4-9 Light the city green using Posters will be sent out to schools. | Theresa Coccimiglio | |
| d. | THRIVE (T. Coombs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to school meetings are in full swing, second round. A Neurology clinic is coming up- Dr. Kobaishi is coming up to SSM. Twinkie Foundation is a local charity for families that are travelling out of town. This foundation has helped alot of families Point person for the foundation is - Karen Lefave | Tina Coombs | |
| e. | COMMUNITY LIVING ALGOMA (J. Ribout) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report at this time. | Jacques Ribout | |
| f. | EASTER SEALS (T. Rushon) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Seals are making some changes to parents, education.easterseals.org section and services.easterseals.org Redshirtday.org has all the information including a link to purchase a shirt. There is a mixed feeling surrounding attendance issues and how this is going to look especially for students who are sick or in hospital. | Tiana Rushon | |
| g. | MEMBER-AT-LARGE (L. Barbeau, M. Duclos, M.Mary Ogenyi-Igoche) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report at this time. | Laurie Barbeau, Mary Ogenyi-Igoche | |
| h. | MEMBER-AT-LARGE – FOCUS ON FAITH (I. DiRenzo) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report at this time. | | |
| i. | TRUSTEES' REPORTS (J. Caputo, W, Greco) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation that has been tabled: Putting students first act and the impact it would have on funding. | John Caputo Wayne Greco | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CEO would be responsible for the allocation for funding. This is a huge concern provincially. • Current Directors may be grandfathered in • St. Kateri grand opening is on May 20. invitation will follow to SEAC. | | |
| 10. | ADJOURNMENT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm | Wayne Greco Rachelle Lambert | |
| 11. | NOTES | | | |

Next Meeting: May 27, 2026

Location: Board Meeting

Time: 4:00-6:00 pm