



**Northeastern
Catholic District**
SCHOOL BOARD

A place where we all belong.

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting - Minutes
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

PRESENT: Paula Crotteau, Cochrane Temiskaming Children's Treatment Centre
Ryley Reis, Canadian Mental Health Association
Ken Ryan, The Lord's Kitchen Society
Lyndsay Mollins Koene, Timmins Learning Centre
Kiana Reuben, Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services
Lisa Malette-Lilko, Hands Autism Services
Stan Skalecki, Vice Chair & NCDSB Trustee
Colleen Landers, Chair & NCDSB Trustee
Daphne Brumwell, Superintendent of Education
Derek Mundle, School Principal Sacred Heart Catholic School
Catherine Hoven, Special Assignment Teacher
Katie Mundle, Special Assignment Teacher
Kim McEntee, Mental Health Supervisor
Lisa Lamarche, Behavior & Autism Worker
Jean Ethier, Education Services Officer / Recorder

EXCUSED: Ellen Renaud, North Eastern Ontario Family and Children's Services
Shannon Costello, The Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Melanie Hannah, Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre
Amber Smith-Come, School Principal St. Anne English Catholic School

Summary:

Daphne welcomed everyone and led the group in prayer and land acknowledgement.

Approval of the agenda: Moved by Stan Skalecki and **SECONDED** by Colleen Landers
That the agenda be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

Approval of the minutes of June 11, 2025 meeting
Moved by Stan Skalecki and **SECONDED** by Colleen Landers
That the minutes be approved and presented. **CARRIED**

Elections – Chair and Vice Chair

Elections - Chair

Daphne Brumwell opened the nomination process. Stan nominated Colleen Landers as Chair of SEAC. Colleen accepted the nomination. Nominations were closed and Daphne Brumwell declared Colleen Landers, Chair of SEAC from September 2025 to June 2026.

Motion

MOVED BY: S. Skalecki
SECONDED BY: R. Reis
CARRIED

Elections - Vice Chair

Daphne Brumwell opened the nomination process for the position of Vice-Chair of SEAC.

Colleen nominated Stan Skalecki for the position. Stan accepted the nomination.

Ryley Reis put himself forward for the position and accepted the nomination.

With two nominations received and accepted, the nomination process was closed. A vote was held to determine the Vice-Chair of SEAC for the term September 2025 to June 2026.

Following the vote, Daphne Brumwell declared Stan Skalecki as Vice-Chair of SEAC for the term September 2025 to June 2026.

MOTION

MOVED BY: R. Reis

SECONDED BY: L. Malette-Lilko

CARRIED

Schedule of Meetings and School Year Calendars

The 2025–2026 meeting schedule and school year calendars were shared with the committee members. All meeting dates have been confirmed from September 2025 to June 2026.

Please refer to the attachments included with these meeting minutes for full details.

Update on the Summer School/Transition Program

We only had a handful of schools run a transition program this summer. St. Anne chose to do theirs in the spring on Saturday mornings. ECCS and St. Jerome ran a program the week before school started. We chose not to operate a summer program this year as it has become increasingly difficult to find staff willing to work and students who are committed to coming for all 15 days as required.

Speech & Language Services

We continue to work with the Therapy Path to provide Speech and Language services to all our schools. John Stark has employed 4 therapy assistants who support several schools in each region. They are currently working on the Year 2 FDK screening. Once this is completed, they will shift their work to therapy based on our wait list and the assessments conducted by John and his SLP colleague. We have asked schools to reach out to any parent who did not return the permission form for the screening to get verbal consent. It is often these children who are most in need of the screen.

Specialized Classrooms – Update for 2025-2026

We have seen a reduction in the number of specialized classrooms we have in our schools again this year. We have moved to a 0.5 model at St. Joseph to ensure that the students in the class are experiencing some time in the regular classroom to support a transition to intermediate & high school where there are no specialized classrooms. At the present time, we only have a half-time program at St. Joseph (3 students) and a full-time program at Sacred Heart in Kirkland Lake with 8 students.

IPRCs and IEPs Fall 2025

IPRCs got underway in schools this week. Most will be done by the end of September. As we have done since COVID, schools run these meetings virtually. This has been very well received by parents as it is much more efficient. If a parent would like an in-person meeting, this can be arranged through the school principal.

We are also in the process of completing IEPs for all our identified students. Staff continue to be expected to include classroom-based assessment data to help drive the expectations and assessment practices on the IEP. We are also encouraging staff to be very thoughtful about the accommodation listed. We prefer not to have a laundry list of accommodations that are provided to many students in the classroom (universal accommodations) and focus on those that are necessary for that student to be successful. For example, all students can and should be provided with more time to complete an assessment task, so this accommodation would not be listed on the IEP. We are also doing some significant work to attempt to reduce the number of students on a non-identified IEP. As such, we have asked schools not to focus on these now as they are not required to go home within 30 days as those for identified students are.

Agency Reports

The Lord's Kirchen Society

The Lord's Kitchen, located beside Saint Anthony's Cathedral at the corner of Spruce Street and Fifth Avenue (across from the One-on-One Mall), has been offering free meals for over forty years. Meals are served on Thursdays from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm in the afternoon and on Fridays from 8:00 am to 9:30 am in the morning. It is a non-denominational, volunteer-run, not-for-profit organization that relies entirely on donations from the community. Fundraising begins in early October. Recently, they received funding to install new kitchen cupboards, which will be added in the first week of December. They have also seen a significant increase in the number of people coming for meals since the spring, though the reason for this rise is unclear.

Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services

We are excited to share that Culture Week—highlighted in the flyer recently circulated—is open to the entire community and will be hosted at 400 Government Rd Timmins.

In collaboration with the Friendship Centre and several other community agencies, this event is designed to be a welcoming and inclusive space where everyone can gather, connect, and celebrate together. Attendees can enjoy lunches provided on-site, along with opportunities to engage in cultural activities, enjoy good food, and meet new people in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere.

Inspire Centre

The Inspire Centre has undergone rebranding for the new fiscal year, but continues to provide the same services, including community and school-based rehab for individuals aged 0 to 21 who are still in school. A significant change is their new role as a diagnostic hub for the region, now funded to provide 10 autism diagnostic assessments per year. They are also transitioning to a tiered model of intervention, starting with occupational therapy and working toward implementing it in speech and language services as well. Further discussions with schools will follow regarding these changes. Paula provided a reminder that the Inspire Centre continues to offer speech services and accepts referrals. They are transitioning to a tiered model of intervention for speech and language services this year and will begin piloting it soon. While they do not provide support for language needs, they continue to assist with speech articulation and fluency.

Canadian Mental Health Association

Services have returned to normal operations, supporting individuals aged 16 and older. This includes family members or caregivers of children with special needs, who are welcome to access support. Walk-in services are available from Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon.

Living Life to the Full is an eight-week course offered by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) that equips people of all ages with practical tools to manage stress, build confidence, and improve overall well-being. Led by certified facilitators, each weekly 90-minute session covers topics such as motivation, problem-solving, handling unhelpful thoughts, and anger management. The program is available in English and French, with materials offered in various languages, and is delivered through CMHA branches and community partners across Canada.

More details are available at: <https://ontario.cmha.ca/programs-services/living-life-to-the-full/>

Hands Autism Services

Efforts have been made to build staff capacity across the region. Previously, most staff were concentrated in two main areas, but now there are therapy assistants in several locations, including the New Liskeard, Kirkland Lake, and the Kapuskasing area. A new therapy assistant has recently been hired in Miss Factory. The goal is to offer a full range of services throughout the region, including entry-to-school programs, school support programs, early caregiver support models, fee-for-service options, and one-to-one ABA services. While challenging, they are optimistic about expanding service availability across the district.

Date of the Next Meeting – Wednesday October 15 2025, at 11:45 a.m.

Adjournment - Moved By: Stan Skalecki That the meeting be adjourned at 12:55 p.m. CARRIED

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) 2025-2026

**NORTHEASTERN CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE TIMMINS BOARD OFFICE - 383 BIRCH ST NORTH**

MEETING	DATES	STARTING
#1	SEPTEMBER 17, 2025	11:45 am
#2	OCTOBER 15, 2025	11:45 am
#3	NOVEMBER 19, 2025	11:45 am
#4	DECEMBER 17, 2025	11:45 am
#5	JANUARY 21, 2026	11:45 am

MEETING	DATES	STARTING
#6	FEBRUARY 18, 2026	11:45 am
#7	MARCH 25, 2026	11:45 am
#8	APRIL 22, 2026	11:45 am
#9	MAY 20, 2026	11:45 am
#10	JUNE 17, 2026	11:45 am

SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER							JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
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**Northeastern
Catholic District
SCHOOL BOARD**

2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar

BISHOP BELLEAU SCHOOL

Learning together.

Striving for excellence.

In service to God and each other.

AUGUST				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
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JUNE				
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CALENDAR LEGEND:

- First/Last Day of School
- Professional Activity Day
- Statutory School Holiday
- Board Holiday





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2025 – 2026 School Year Calendar

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CALENDAR LEGEND

- First Day of School
- Professional Activity Day
- Statutory School Holiday
- Board Holiday
- Scheduled Exams at OHS
- Last Day of School

