

Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting (SEAC)

April 14, 2025


Leadership Report

SPECIAL EDUCATION IN THE TDSB

Louise Sirisko, Associate Director, Learning Innovation and Equitable Outcomes

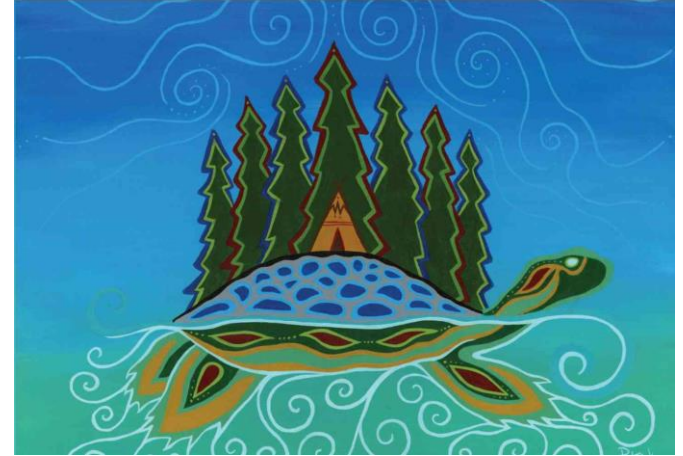
Nandy Palmer, Executive Superintendent, Special Education Programs and Equitable Outcomes

Agenda

1. 7:00 – 7:05 pm Call to Order
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - Review/Approval of Agenda
 - Declarations of Possible Conflicts of Interest
 - Approval of minutes (March)
 - Chair Report
 2. 7:05 – 7:10 pm
 - Chair Report
 3. 7:10 – 7:20 pm
 - Staff Action Plan Working Group Update
 4. 7:20 - 8:20 pm
 - TDSB Director Clayton La Touche
 5. 8:20 – 8:40
 - Budget Update (Craig Snider)
 6. 8:40 – 8:50
 - Leadership Report
 7. 8:50 – 9:00
 - Trustee Report
 - Association/Member Report
 - Adjournment
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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge we reside on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognise the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, as well as the importance of establishing and maintaining Cultural Safety through learning from Indigenous Peoples and Perspectives.



April Learning Sessions for Staff and Families

- Learning and engagement sessions continue to be made available for both staff and families, providing valuable opportunities to explore inclusive and anti-ableist practices and implement concrete strategies in the classroom and at home. These sessions are designed to support student achievement and well-being.
- [Learning Sessions April 2025](#)

April Newsletter for Families

- The Special Education and Inclusion Department is pleased to share the [April 2025 Special Education and Inclusion Parent/Guardian Newsletter](#). All newsletters for parents/guardians/caregivers can be found on the [external TDSB site](#). These newsletters provide valuable and updated information related to Special Education and Inclusion for families.
- [April 2025 Special Education and Inclusion Parent/Guardian Newsletter](#)
- [External TDSB site](#)

Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Webinar Sessions

- On March 5th and March 6th, Special Education and Inclusion offered a parent engagement session for parents/guardians/caregivers. There were a total of 59 attendees.
- Topics covered included transitions for students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), elementary to secondary transitions, post secondary transitions, school and home partnerships, and key resources for families. The sessions were facilitated by Special Education and Inclusion Centrally Assigned Principals and Coordinators and Consultants. Attendees were provided the opportunity to ask questions while the presentations were being held. The recorded session has been posted on the public website [here](#).
- [Parents/Guardians/Caregivers Engagement Sessions](#)

Principal/Vice Principal Drop-In Sessions

- In addition to monthly professional learning at Family of Schools meetings, the Special Education and Inclusion Centrally Assigned Principals (CAPs) have established monthly virtual drop-in sessions for all administrators.
- During these sessions, time is set aside for both structured professional learning and the opportunity for administrators to ask specific questions about Special Education topics, including writing effective Individual Education Plans (IEPs), addressing safety concerns, managing in a unionized environment, and creating support staff timetables. This has built a collaborative and supportive community among administrators, allowing them to share best practices, discuss challenges, and exchange ideas to enhance their overall effectiveness in promoting inclusive education within their schools.

Unleashing Learning 2025

- The TDSB's Multi Year Strategic Plan, framed by the Global Competencies and Deep Learning through Technology, was the focus of the Unleashing Learning 2025 on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025. The Assistive Technology/SEA team presented insightful sessions on assistive technology and communication tools, including Bookcreator, WeVideo, and AAC communication, and how they support students with special education needs. The DLL marketplace also showcased assistive technology tools that the Digital Lead Learners had used in their classrooms throughout the year.

ASD Summer Skills Development Program – Summer 2025 Session

- The Toronto District School Board is offering the summer session of the ASD Skills Development Leisure Program for students entering Grades 4–10 with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This program, titled *Doing What I Love: At Home, At School, and In the Community!*, provides students with the opportunity to develop, strengthen, and enhance their social skills through engaging leisure activities. The program focuses on social-communication skill development, with an emphasis on leisure and recreational activities tailored to students' interests.
- [ASD Summer Skills Development Program - Parent Letter](#)

Education Community Partnership Program (ECPP)

Summer Program

- The ECPP Program will be providing summer school secondary credit programs for students in partnership with Humber River Hospital, SickKids Hospital, Springboard, Turning Point, Fernie Youth Services, The Jessie and June Calwood Centre, Abiona Centre, Central Toronto Youth Services, Youthdale Treatment Centres and Lumenus Community Services. The ECPP Summer Program provides students the opportunity to earn a credit in the summer while receiving the support they need from the community agency.

Trip to Forest Valley Outdoor Education Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

- On Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, 130 Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) students from JK to Grade 12, representing 96 schools across the TDSB, took part in a full day of hands-on learning at Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre. These students, who receive Tier 2 and 3 support from the D/HH Itinerant Team, alongside their itinerant teachers, spent the day learning, connecting, and celebrating their identities as D/HH learners.

Meeting or reconnecting with peers who also use hearing aids, cochlear implants, and remote microphone systems helped foster a strong sense of community and belonging amongst the students. Younger students had the chance to form connections with role models, while older students shared their lived experiences navigating school as D/HH learners in the TDSB.

Students left Forest Valley with a sense of joy, confidence, and connection



World Autism Day - April 2, 2025

[Celebrate the Spectrum](#) is an opportunity for positive action to provide spaces of support and advocacy for our diverse communities while learning about autism and how we can all make our communities better and more inclusive places for autistic people.

- Each April, people from across Ontario come together to show their support for autistic people. Join the fun and Celebrate the Spectrum with us in the lead-up to World Autism Day on April 2 and throughout the month of April.
- [Celebrate the Spectrum \(CTS\)](#)
- [Célébrons le spectre \(CTS\)](#)
- [New Video: Autism Ontario: Making Autism Matter](#)

IPRC Data - March 2025

March IPRCs	
Learning Centre 1	298
Learning Centre 2	119
Central	8
IPRCs Completed	425
IPRC Cumulative since August 2024	
IPRC Cumulative since August 2024	1441

Psychological Assessment Data - March 2025



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and Inclusion

Psychological Services Assessment Statistics

March 2025

Month-By-Month	Total
Completed	775
Referrals	271

Cumulative (since September 2024)	
Completed	2450
In Progress	733
Removed	308
Waiting*	1189
Total Referrals**	4680

**89% of total waitlist are comprehensive/DK assessments, and 11% are gifted assessments*

*** 74% of total referrals are for comprehensive/DK assessments, and 26% are gifted assessments*