

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 13, 2025, 1:32 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Representatives

T. Leckie, Association for Bright Children
C. Pecican, Autism London Ontario
J. Wright, Community Services Coordination Network
A. Morse, Easter Seals Ontario
C. Read, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network
P. Cook, Inclusion Action Ontario
S. Young, London Autism and Disabilities Group
R. Askew, London Down Syndrome Association
C. Fortnum, LHSC, Children's Hospital

Alternates

R. Ramjeawan, Community Services Coordination Network
T. Grant, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network
B. Sell, Ontario Parents for Visually Impaired Children

Absent

S. Antone, Ontario Parents for Visually Impaired Children
D. Shore-Reid, Learning Disabilities Association of London
K. Robinson, Vanier Children's Services
K. Vandersluis, Additional Member

Regrets

V. Hlady-MacDonald, VOICE for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Administration and Others

P. Boniferno, Ministry of Education Supervisor
B. Tucker, Interim Director of Education
K. Wilkinson, Associate Director
J. Bruce, Superintendent
M. Chevalier, System Principal
C. Nichols, System Principal
H. Powell, Principal
K. Lambert, Manager
N. Howe, Vice Principal
L. Quenneville, Learning Support Services
S. Hickson, Board Services

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Morse called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. A roll call was requested and conducted.

A question of clarification was addressed by the Chair regarding quorum for the meeting.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Without objection, the agenda was approved.

Superintendent Bruce introduced Paul Boniferro, who was appointed by the Ministry of Education as the Thames Valley District School Board's (TVDSB) Supervisor.

Supervisor Boniferro shared information about his background and mandate.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Supervisor Boniferro regarding letters that are sent to the Ministry from the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and the communication process when decisions are made that affect the TVDSB.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

On motion, the minutes of the 2025 April 7 regular and in-camera meetings were approved as printed.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Letter - Speech Language Pathology Presentation (7)

Vice Chair Morse led a discussion regarding a letter to be written to the Ministry of Education concerning wait times for Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) services.

Discussion included referencing budget constraints in the letter and forming a collaborative approach between Interim Director Tucker and the SEAC when drafting the letter.

A housekeeping amendment changing the name "Peter Calandra" to "Paul Calandra" was made prior to the motion being put on the floor.

The following motion was moved by member Pecican and
ADOPTED:

THAT the Interim Director of Education at the Thames Valley District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education, Paul Calandra, and Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, Michael Parsa, highlighting concerns regarding wait times for Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) services from community agencies; and

THAT an integrated service delivery model for SLP services be considered to enhance efficiency, accessibility, and outcomes for students.

6. 2025-26 Preliminary Budget - Special Education

Superintendent Lynd and Manager Macey presented the 2025-26 Preliminary Budget – Special Education for feedback. Year-over-year changes in the budget were outlined.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding staffing allocated to blind and low vision students and psychological support services, calculations utilized for the budget revenue lines, the budget approval process given the supervision of the TVDSB by the Ministry of Education, enrolment and its effect on budget numbers, and deferred revenue.

Vice Chair Morse provided the rationale for the motion.

Members requested a review of agenda item #7 Special Education Plan Standard 12 in advance of voting on the motion.

Questions of clarification pertaining to Standard 12 were addressed by Administration regarding attendance counselors, the timeline for approving the Special Education budget, and the budget for Teachers on Special Assignment.

The following recommendation was moved by member Fortnum and
CARRIED:

WHEREAS after reviewing the Special Education budget, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) notes significant concerns regarding the impact of provincial budget reductions on the ability to provide services for students with Special Education needs, and

WHEREAS the SEAC appreciates the commitment of the Ministry of Education-appointed Supervisor in continuing to support Special Education and our most vulnerable students by supporting a deficit.

THAT the SEAC endorses the 2025-2026 Preliminary Special Education Budget to be approved by the Ministry of Education-Appointed Supervisor.

A vote to extend the meeting until 3:15 p.m. was defeated.

7. Special Education Plan - Standard 12

This item was discussed with agenda item #6 2025-26 Preliminary Budget - Special Education.

8. Special Education Community Engagement Evening Results

This item was deferred to the next SEAC meeting.

9. TVDSB SEAC Membership Policy

This item was deferred to the next SEAC meeting.

10. 2025-2026 Special Education Classes and Schools

This item was deferred to the next SEAC meeting.

11. Working Group Updates – SEAC Handbook, SEAC Priorities

This item was deferred to the next SEAC meeting.

12. Correspondence (Standing Item)

a. Correspondence from the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board and Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) Position Paper (14)

Vice Chair Morse referred to the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board (HPEDSB) letter and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) Position Paper in the meeting package. Members were encouraged to share feedback on the items with the Vice Chair.

13. Announcements/Member Updates (Standing Item)

System Principal Chevalier reported on the success of the TVDSB's Special Olympics event.

a. Pupil Accommodation Policy (4015) Public Input

This item was deferred to a future SEAC meeting.

b. Program Development Team (PDT) Brochure

This item was deferred to a future SEAC meeting.

14. Notice of Motion Which Has Been Given

This item was discussed with agenda item #5a Letter - Speech Language Pathology Presentation.

15. Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting is scheduled for 2025 June 25.

16. Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Recommendations:

WHEREAS after reviewing the Special Education budget, the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) notes significant concerns regarding the impact of provincial budget reductions on the ability to provide services for students with Special Education needs, and

WHEREAS the SEAC appreciates the commitment of the Ministry of Education-appointed Supervisor in continuing to support Special Education and our most vulnerable students by supporting a deficit.

THAT the SEAC endorses the 2025-2026 Preliminary Special Education Budget to be approved by the Ministry of Education-Appointed Supervisor.

Alison Morse
Committee Vice Chair

Recording Secretary: SH