Limestone DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Our Intention: To make a positive difference in the lives of every student, in every classroom, in every school.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2026

Public Meeting

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd Regrets: K. McGregor	Present: A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen's University) K. Hill, Member-at-Large E. Clow, Member-at-Large H. Clark, Autism Ontario Z. Rogers, Community Living Kingston J. Barker, Lennox & Addington Resources for Children Regrets: G. Eaton-Smith, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario
Invitees:	Staff:
	Present: M. Blackburn, Superintendent of Education D. Thompson, Principal of Educational Service A. Todd, Vice-Principal of Educational Services W. Fisher, Educational Services and Safe Schools Lead C. Snider, Special Education Program Coordinator M. Aylsworth, Special Education Program Coordinator M. West, Special Education Program Coordinator J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator S. Labbett, Special Education Program Coordinator
Recorder:	Guests:
J. Senior, Administrative Assistant	None at this time.

1. WELCOME

Trustee Lloyd called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Trustee Lloyd read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

"The Limestone District School Board is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek and Haudenosaunee. We acknowledge their enduring presence on this land, as well as the presence of Métis, Inuit, and other First Nations from across Turtle Island. We honour their cultures and celebrate their commitment to this land."

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Erin Clow that the agenda be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Katrina Hill that the June 10, 2026, Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 Special Education Plan 2026-2027 - Superintendent Michael Blackburn provided an update on the 2026-2027 Special Education Plan, noting that the plan has been finalized, posted on the Limestone District School Board website, and submitted to the Ministry of Education. Significant revisions were made to align with updated Ministry templates and requirements.

Members were advised that ongoing consultation on the Special Education Plan is a Ministry requirement. To support this process, a community feedback form has been added to the Board website, allowing community members to submit comments, questions, and recommendations. Feedback received will be reviewed and shared with SEAC as appropriate. In addition, regular consultation with SEAC throughout the school year will be incorporated to provide ongoing opportunities for input and feedback on the plan.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Accessibility in Limestone Presentation – Educational Services Staff – The Educational Services Leadership Team provided an overview of accessibility initiatives outlined in the 2026-2027 Special Education Plan. Members learned about the Board's commitment to accessibility through compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), implementation of Board policies and procedures, and the ongoing work of the Accessibility Committee.

The team highlighted the collaborative work between Educational Services and Facility Services to identify and address accessibility barriers in schools. Through regular consultations and accessibility walk-throughs, the Board reviews and prioritizes projects to improve access for students, staff, and community members while working toward standards that exceed minimum building code requirements where possible.

An overview of Special Equipment Amount (SEA) funding was provided, including how specialized equipment and supports are identified and purchased to help students access learning, participate fully in school activities, and meet individual physical, communication, sensory, and personal care needs. Members also heard about efforts to provide both individualized supports and broader classroom resources that remove barriers to learning.

Current accessibility initiatives include accessibility improvements at Gould Lake, a power wheelchair pilot project, staff training on accessible communications, implementation of Microsoft accessibility tools, accessible field trip planning resources, and the use of centrally purchased accessibility equipment such as all-terrain wheelchairs, evacuation chairs, portable lifts, and change tables.

The presentation also highlighted Administrative Procedure 260 and the Accessible Field Trip Planning Guide, which support inclusive planning for field trips and events by focusing on removing barriers, addressing individual student needs, reducing financial barriers, and ensuring equitable alternatives when participation is not possible.

The presentation concluded with a student success story demonstrating the impact of a power wheelchair pilot project. Staff shared how access to the device increased a student's independence, mobility, choice-making, and participation within the school environment, illustrating the broader impact of accessibility initiatives on student belonging and inclusion.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Thames Valley District School Board- Letter to Minister of Education regarding Funding Support for Students Requiring Special Education Programs and Services, dated June 22, 2026. Provided for information in the Agenda Package.

7.2 Halton District School Board – Letter to Minister of Education regarding Increased and Sustainable Special Education Funding, dated September 1, 2026. Provided for information in the Agenda Package.

8. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

None at this time.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Blackburn provided an overview of the Superintendent's Report, which was included in the Agenda Package.

9.2 Future Agenda Items- SEAC members were invited to suggest topics for future SEAC agendas at any time throughout the school year. It was noted that recommendations may include areas of interest, requests for additional information on previous presentations, or topics members would like explored in greater detail. Members were encouraged to bring forward ideas during meetings or by contacting Board staff between meetings. While suggestions may not appear on the next agenda, they will be considered for future meetings to support ongoing learning, discussion, and consultation.

9.3 Other Business Updates- Superintendent Blackburn provided several updates for members' information. Members were advised that Laura Conboy, LDSB Mental Health Lead, has been seconded to School Mental Health Ontario for the current school year as a provincial system leader supporting school boards across Ontario. Recruitment efforts are underway to fill the role during the secondment period.

An update was also provided on the Inclusive Playground Project. The new inclusive playground at Shannon Park is scheduled to officially open on September 12, 2026, marking the culmination of a multi-year fundraising and community partnership effort supported by Limestone District School Board.

An update was provided regarding trustee and SEAC elections. Trustee elections will take place in October, with the new Board to be sworn in in November. Following the appointment of trustees to SEAC, elections for the SEAC Chair and Vice-Chair positions will be held. Current officers will remain in their roles until the election process is complete. Members were also advised that associations may review and update their SEAC representatives during this period.

NEXT MEETING DATE

October 14, 2026

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Member-at-Large Erin Clow that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.