

Agenda – SEAC Meeting

June 10, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Limestone Education Centre

220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston, Ontario

Virtual Link: [Join the Meeting](#)

Public Meeting – 5:30 p.m.

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.”

1. WELCOME

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 SEAC Meeting – May 27, 2026 (Pages 3-5)

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6. SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION

6.1 **Special Education Budget** – Financial Services Manager Paula Carson and Acting Superintendent of Corporate and Staff Services Roger Richard

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES UPDATE

7.1 **Summer Supports – Special Education and Mental Health** – Vice Principal Alison Todd and Mental Health Lead Laura Conboy

7.2 **Special Education Update June 17, 2026, Board Meeting** – Superintendent Scot Gillam

7.3 **Special Education Plan Consultation Update** – Superintendent Scot Gillam

Limestone District School Board

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8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Bluewater District School Board – Letter to Minister of Education Funding Support for Students with Special Education and Mental Health Needs, dated June 1, 2026. For your information. (Pages 6-7)

9. ASSOCIATION UPDATES

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Scot Gillam (Pages 8-9)

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

September 9, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2026

Public Meeting

Roll Call:

Trustees:	Members:
T. Lloyd K. McGregor	<p>Present: A. Martin, Member-at-Large (Queen’s University) Z. Rogers, Community Living Kingston</p> <p>Regrets: G. Eaton-Smith, Learning Disabilities Association of Kingston K. Hill, Member-at-Large L. Clouthier, Easter Seals Ontario E. Clow, Member-at-Large J. Barker, Lennox & Addington Resources for Children H. Clark, Autism Ontario</p>
Invitees:	Staff:
	<p>Present: S. Gillam, Superintendent of Education 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 L. Conboy, Mental Health Lead A. Todd, Vice-Principal of Educational Services J. Lalonde, Special Education Program Coordinator S. Labbett, Special Education Program Coordinator D. Thompson, Principal of Educational Services M. Blackburn, Associate Superintendent of Education</p>
Recorder:	Guests:
J. Senior, Administrative Assistant	R. Barrett, Adolescent Care Worker, NDSS Student - NDSS

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1. WELCOME

Chair McGregor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair McGregor read the Acknowledgement of Territory:

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2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY: Trustee Tiffany Lloyd that the agenda be approved. Carried.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY: Trustee Tiffany Lloyd that the April 22, 2026, Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None at this time.

6. EDUCATION SERVICES UPDATE

6.1 Student Mental Health Supports- NDSS – Adolescent Child Care Worker, Ricki Barrett, from NDSS, along with an NDSS student, shared a presentation on Jack.org student initiatives. The student-led group focuses on reducing the stigma around mental health through monthly themed activities, including bulletin boards, school-wide announcements, and interactive events. Initiatives throughout the year included partnerships with Public Health and community organizations, wellness workshops, and activities to support students with exam stress and overall well-being. The group also organized Mental Health Week activities and continues to plan future initiatives. Ongoing goals include increasing student engagement, expanding partnerships, and promoting mental health awareness within the school community.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Waterloo Region District School Board – Letter to Minister of Education regarding Provincial Proposal to Replace Trustees with Provincially Appointed Supervisors, dated April 27, 2026. Provided for information in the Agenda Package.

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7.2 Waterloo Region District School Board – Letter to Minister of Education regarding Support for Funding Priorities for Students with Special Education and Mental Health Needs, dated April 27, 2026. Provided for information in the Agenda Package.

7.3 Waterloo Region District School Board – Letter to Minister of Education regarding concerns being raised by other boards across Ontario regarding the current state of special education funding and the protection of student rights under the Ontario Human Rights Code, dated April 27, 2026. Provided for information in the Agenda Package.

7.4 Upper Grand District School Board – Letter to Minister of Education regarding Funding Support for Students with Special Education and Mental Health Needs, dated May 13, 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 Scot Gillam provided an overview of the Superintendent's Report, which was included in the Agenda Package.

9.2 Parent Concern - Rideau Public School – It was reported that a parent from Rideau Public School contacted Trustee Karen McGregor and Member-at-Large Andrea Martin regarding concerns about the level of support for their child. This information was shared with Associate Superintendents Michael Blackburn and Stephanie Sartor, as well as Principal Deborah Thompson, who are currently addressing the matter.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

June 10, 2026

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY: Trustee Tiffany Lloyd that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm to begin the Tri-Board SEAC Meeting.

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Bluewater District School Board

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June 1, 2026

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education
5th Floor 438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

VIA EMAIL: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Subject: Funding Support for Students with Special Education and Mental Health Needs

Dear Minister Calandra:

On behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) of Bluewater District School Board (BWDSB), I am writing in support of the Simcoe County District School Board SEAC's letter of January 14, 2026, regarding special education and mental health funding priorities. We share the concerns of other boards related to the persistence of an inadequate special education funding model at a time when the complexity of student needs and demand for corresponding services continue to grow.

BWDSB has been navigating recent staffing reductions in special education services stemming from broader and significant fiscal pressures across our system, including funding constraints, cost increases, and the obligation to maintain a balanced budget under provincial legislation. Unfortunately, surplus that was used in previous years to support our special education budget is no longer available, further exacerbating the issue.

With this in mind, we are highlighting the following priority areas that we urge your ministry to consider:

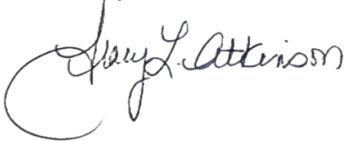
- **Special education funding:** We appreciate the recent Special Incidence Portion funding updates by your ministry. However, overall special education funding still falls below what is required to address the rising costs associated with recruiting and retaining support staff, including educational assistants, whose expertise is critical to supporting the growing needs of our most vulnerable students. It has also become increasingly difficult to meet these students' complex needs when expenses are exceeding funding, thus causing multi-million-dollar deficits within the special education envelope.
- **Community mental health supports:** While our board invests heavily in a robust and responsive system-wide mental health team to provide tiered student support across 42 schools, these services alone cannot replace the clinical interventions that are essential through our community partners and agencies. Adequate funding from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services for wrap-around community services ensures that students can access much-needed mental health supports beyond the limitations of what our schools can deliver. In BWDSB, we rely on the work and expertise of our invaluable partners in children's mental health, such as Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services. It is important to note that our board spans a vast and unique geography, where easy access to services is crucial for families. This is especially pronounced when considering the many crisis and tragedy responses that our board has had to manage recently.

- **Alignment with accessibility legal requirements:** As the 2025 deadline approaches for the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, it is imperative that capital investments are dedicated to ensuring physical accessibility needs are met in our schools, such as elevators, ramps, washroom enhancements, and the retrofitting or addition of other spaces. Current budget allocations pose significant challenges in meeting these vital obligations.

One of this year's identified priorities of the BWDSB SEAC is focused on making sure that the voices of our students and parents/guardians are captured in our work and advocacy efforts. We respectfully ask that the ministry consider the above areas of shared concern with the families we represent, and work collaboratively with us and other boards on effective solutions moving forward.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting our students with special education needs. We appreciate your attention to this critically important and timely matter.

Sincerely,



Tracy Lynn Atkinson
Chair, SEAC

cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Paul Vickers, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Ontario School Board Chairs
Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees
Board of Trustees, BWDSB
AJ Keene, BWDSB Chief Executive Officer

/jp

Administrative Report: Superintendent's Report

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

06/10/2026

A. Ministry Updates:

None at this time

B. Educational Services Updates:

Summer Funding

Summer funding has been announced by the Ministry of Education. This funding will once again support mental health initiatives across the district over the summer, as well as provide support for students with special education needs.

Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC) Transition Resource Guide (TRG)

The [Regional Assessment and Resource Centre](#) offers a variety of resources and transition support programs for students during key periods of transition in their education. With funding from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Education, RARC has developed a [Transition Resource Guide \(TRG\)](#) website. The purpose of this site is to support and guide students with disabilities as they explore pathways for life after high school, including apprenticeship and trades, community participation, post-secondary education, and the workplace.

Who can use the Transition Resource Guide, and how can it be used:

While the TRG can help guide and prepare students for many pathways, it can also support teachers and families by providing information about available programs and resources, such as:

- **Learning** about a variety of programs and pathways after high school.
- **Helping** students understand what each pathway involves and what they can expect, while building students' **confidence**.
- Learning about what **accessibility** and **accommodations** may look like within each setting, including examples of supports, services, and strategies.

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- Applying helpful **resources**, including **skill-building** worksheets, to support students in navigating new environments with greater **independence** and confidence.
- Directing others to the TRG site during one-on-one sessions or in classroom settings to help **educate** students about different pathways.
- Utilizing the site with parents to discuss students' needs and help **relieve** some stress around transitions.

Transitions Advisory Board- Expression of Interest

The RARC Transitions team hosts a Transition Advisory Board to help plan, expand, and promote their free programs across Ontario. Are you interested in joining their board? Members meet virtually 1-2 times a year to bring together diverse perspectives and help ensure programming and resources remain relevant, inclusive, and responsive to evolving needs. If you're interested in learning more, please complete the [Expression of Interest form](#).

RARC Parent Workshop Series

This virtual series is open to parents of students entering Grades 7, 8, or 9 in Ontario with learning disabilities or ADHD. Please note that this programming will be offered in English.

The goal of the sessions is to provide parents:

- information and support to understand their child's experience and potential more fully
- skills to navigate the school system
- ability to provide timely and targeted support
- support to know they are not alone

There is no cost for the program; however, parents must commit to attending both sessions. The sessions will run on Tuesday, August 11 and Wednesday, August 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (EDT). Registration is now open and will close once capacity is reached.

More information, including a parent poster and registration link, is available here: <https://www.queensu.ca/rarc/transitions/parent-workshop-series>.

Prepared by: Scot Gillam, Superintendent of Curriculum & Program Services: Student Support Services & Indigenous Education

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