

HALTON DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Special Education Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 7:00 pm

MINUTES

- Present:** Sapna Gaba (Association for Bright Children); Amanda Winch (Autism Ontario); Jelena King (Centre for Diverse Learners); Sophia Siddiqi (Halton Down Syndrome Association); Erin Sproule (VOICE for Children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing); Tara Conley (Member At Large); Katie Schleifer (Member At Large); Joanna Oliver (Trustee); Audrey Wubbenhorst (Trustee); Carole Baxter (Trustee)
- Staff:** Michele Moore (Superintendent, Special Education); Conan Spruin (Principal, Special Education); Angela Sauve, (Vice Principal, Special Education); Sommer Sweetman (Communications); Laura Radinovic (Special Education Services Coordinator)
- Regrets:** Jennifer Legare (Autism Ontario); Sierra Kernick (Community Living Burlington); Shania Jagnandan (Community Living Oakville); Melissa Dockeray (Easter Seals Society); Omer Mirza (Easter Seals Society); Kajsa Klassen (Member At Large); Xin Yi Zhang (Trustee)

1.0 Opening

1.1 Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Gaba called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1.2 Honouring the Land and Territory

Chair Gaba read the Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

#270-26

Moved by: E. Sproule

Seconded by: C. Baxter

Be it resolved that the September 23, 2026 agenda for the Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

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www.hdsb.ca

Carried Unanimously

1.5 Minutes of June 10, 2026

#271-26

Moved by: J. King

Seconded by: K. Schleifer

Be it resolved that the meeting minutes for the June 10, 2026 Special Education Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

2.0 Action

None at this time.

3.0 SEAC Discussion/Input/Question Period

3.1 Montclair Public School Spotlight

Andrea Gill, Principal and Nicole Jones, Vice Principal, provided a presentation on the work they are doing at Montclair PS. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation which can be found [HERE](#).

3.2 Visible Values in CPE & CPP Programs

Angela Sauve, Vice Principal of Special Education Services, and Alison Falsetti, CPE teacher at Palermo PS, provided a presentation on Visible Values in the Classroom. There was an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation which can be found [HERE](#).

4.0 Communication to SEAC

4.1 Superintendent's Report

1. First day of school at HDSB - The Halton District School Board (HDSB) welcomes approximately 64,000 Kindergarten to Grade 12 students on the first day of school - Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026 for the start of the 2026-2027 school year. To make the beginning of a new school year as smooth as possible, parents/guardians can visit the HDSB [Welcome to a New School Year](#) webpage for helpful information and resources about transportation, before and after school care, getting involved in your child's school, mental health and well-being resources and more.
2. The Student and Family Support Office is now open - start by speaking with your child's teacher and principal. If you still need support, our school board's Student and Family Support Office can help. [*Shared Solutions A Guide to Preventing and Resolving Conflicts Regarding Programs and Services for Students with Special Education Needs.*](#)
3. Removing Barriers Grant applications have been submitted. Removing Barriers initiative is intended to support projects that prevent or remove accessibility barriers experienced by students with special education needs and/or disabilities.

4. Naming of the new school - Students, families and community members were encouraged to submit suggestions for the name of the new school by September 13th, 2026. Once approved, the board says the official name will be shared community-wide.
5. As a part of this new school HDSB is excited to announce a brand-new regional sports program launching in September 2027, the Academy for Athletic Performance and Excellence (APEX). The program will be housed at the HDSB's new Oakville Secondary School, located at 4020 Sixth Line in Oakville. APEX is open to all eligible secondary students across Ontario.
6. Open House at Craig Kielburger Secondary School - On Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, the Halton District School Board will host a board-wide, interactive Secondary School Open House at Craig Kielburger Secondary School in Milton (1151 Ferguson Dr, Milton).

This event is designed to help students in Grade 6–10 and their families explore the full range of opportunities available across HDSB secondary schools, including programs and pathways, academics, athletics, clubs, community and support and student life.

This is not just an information session. It's a celebration of what makes the HDSB vibrant and unique. With hands-on activities, student-led booths and real-time engagement, this event will be fun, inspiring and a powerful first connection for future secondary students.

7. PA days presentations that took place to Educational Assistants, focused on building collaborative relationships, fostering trust and psychological safety and improving communication. We explored practical tools and strategies to enhance teamwork, manage student support, and create positive school environments.
8. Sports Festival Days are back in partnership with Special Olympics Ontario on October 27th & 28th at the Milton Velodrome. More information will be shared with schools soon.
9. Calling all Three Year Olds
You are warmly invited to attend the Halton District School Board's upcoming "Calling All Three-Year-Olds" Open House events, taking place across our communities this October & November. Please see [hdsb.ca](https://www.hdsb.ca) for more information.
10. IEPs have gone home

4.2 Association Reports

None at this time

4.3 Trustee's Reports

Trustee Wubbenhurst shared the excitement felt in the communities as 2 new schools had groundbreaking ceremonies. One in North Oakville, and one in Milton. Also, highlighted that we are looking for new members for SEAC for the next 4 year term.

4.4 Committee Reports

None at this time.

5.0 Next Agenda/Order Paper

As a reminder, the current Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) term concludes at the end of October. We are currently accepting organization nominations, as well as cover letters and resumes for community representative roles.

Please submit your application by **October 30th**.

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Gaba adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.