

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jim McCuaig Education Centre  
Thunder Bay, Ontario

2019 APR 17

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Liz Tod (Chair)  
Kelly Matyasovszky (Vice Chair)  
Miranda Myers  
Lesley Harding (A)  
Carey Murphy (A)  
Suzanne Posthumus  
Trustee George Saarinen

Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith  
Mike Otway  
Jennifer Bean  
Danielle Miller  
Debby Dick (A)  
Ruth Vannieuwenhuizen (A)  
Therese Zaroski

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Colleen Kappel

Lori Carson

**ABSENT REGRETS:**

Angela Hill  
Wilma Kleynendorst

Cory Koski

1. **Call to Order**

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee George Saarinen

Seconded by Mike Otway

*“THAT the agenda for the April 17, 2019 SEAC meeting be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

3. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. **Presentations**

There were no presentations.

5. **Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by Therese Zaroski

Seconded by Suzanne Posthumus

*“THAT the minutes of the March 20, 2019 SEAC meeting be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

6.1. 2019-2020 Budget Deputation

Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education noted the SEAC Budget Deputation went well and that Cory Koski did a wonderful job representing SEAC. Ms. Kappel thanked members for their work and the priorities submitted in the deputation.

Ms. Kappel shared an update on major implications and timelines for the 2019-2020 budget including changes to class sizes, implications on funding for school space, and autism. Grants for Student Needs are expected to be released by the Ministry at the end of April. Ms. Kappel will provide an update at a future meeting when more information is available.

6.2. Parent / Community Engagement Session

Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education advised that Apple is available on May 15, 2019 for a Parent / Community Engagement Session. The SEAC meeting will take place from 6:00 – 6:30 pm, and the Apply presentation will be held from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Arrangements will be made for the meeting and Parent / Community Engagement Session to be held at Superior CVI. A poster announcing the event will be distributed to schools for posting on their social media sights.

7. Correspondence

The correspondence folder was circulated for members' perusal. In response to the letter from the Durham Catholic DSB to the Minister of Education, Colleen Kappel will draft a letter of support and bring back to the next SEAC meeting for members approval to submit to the Board.

8. Advocacy Tracking

The advocacy tracking template was circulated for member completion.

9. New Business

9.1. International Dyslexia Association of Ontario Branch (ONBIDA)

Carey Murphy referred to the ONBIDA position statement distributed with the meeting package and the document is very comprehensive and provides key findings of the work completed over the years and clear recommendations. Ms. Murphy noted that the findings of the document support the need to support early intervention.

9.2. Visual Resumes for Students with Special Needs

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC shared that she has been attending "Closing the Gap with Assistive Technology" conference for the past few years and at the latest conference attendees were introduced to Visual Resumes. Ms. Tod shared a general overview of visual resumes and how these resumes

are used to assist individuals (with special needs) highlight their skills when applying for employment. Ms. Tod noted visual resumes are being used in the United States and proving to be successful. Colleen Kappel noted visual resumes information could be shared with high schools. Lori Carson suggested this could be used as a tool for students transitioning from elementary to secondary school as a way for individuals to introduce his/herself.

Discussion ensued and members agreed they would like to learn more about visual resumes. Liz Tod will share an example at a future meeting.

### 9.3. SEAC Video

Colleen Kappel, Superintendent of Education noted Generator has provided a draft video for SEAC feedback and prefaced the content noting the video may not capture the full essence of SEAC's request however; it is based on what the student and parents wanted to present. Ms. Kappel further suggested that a second video could be made with further focus on the struggles students and families face.

The video was shared followed by discussion. Discussion ensued. Members agreed the video was touching however; it doesn't depict the reality and struggles that parents and students face experience.

It was requested that Generator modify the video to highlight struggles, identify ups and downs, challenges and achievements, and where to access resources.

Colleen Kappel suggested a portion of the funding for the current video would be covered by SEAC and the remainder paid through Board funding, and that SEAC could look at creating a second video. The second video could highlight struggles of a student transitioning from elementary to secondary, and how to navigate services. This video would focus more on SEAC's request and demonstrate the reality of what many parents and families experience. A meeting will be scheduled with Generator to discuss priorities and set specific requirements for a second video.

## 10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

- 10.1. World Autism Awareness Day event held on April 2, 2019 was well attended by community members.
- 10.2. In support of recent events at Hammarskjold High School all staff are encouraged to wear Red and Gold on April 18, 2019

## 11. Board Update

Trustee George Saarinen provided highlights on the following meeting:

- March 26 Regular Board Meeting
  - Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy presentation;

- Minecraft-Engaging Learners Through Technology presentation from McKellar Park Central Public School;
- School Wide Science Fair presentation from Whitefish Valley Public School;
- Ontario Public School Boards' Association Report;
- Student Trustee Report;
- Semi-Annual Student Achievement Update;
- Bus Transportation Costs for 2018-2019;
- Approval of the 2019-2020 School Year Calendar; and
- Land Acknowledgement Notice.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Mike Otway

Seconded by Trustee George Saarinen

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:05 p.m."*

CARRIED