

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Thunder Bay, Ontario

2019 SEP 18

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Tod (Chair)
Miranda Myers
Carey Murphy (A)
Suzanne Posthumus
Trustee George Saarinen

Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith
Cory Koski
Mike Otway
Jennifer Bean

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Lori Carson

Ian MacRae
Sierra Gaudreau, Student Trustee

ABSENT:

Kelly Matyasovszky (Vice Chair)
Angela Hill
Wilma Kleynendorst

Danielle Miller
Lesley Harding (A)

1. **Call to Order**

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education was welcomed; round table introductions took place.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Miranda Myers

Seconded by Mike Otway

“THAT the agenda for the September 18, 2019 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. **Presentations**

5.1. **Introduction of Special Education Team and Mental Health Lead**

Lori Carson, acknowledged the Special Education Team in attendance, and members introduced themselves and provided a high-level overview of their portfolios.

Attendees were:

- Ruth Ann Fay, Special Education Resource Teacher
- Kelly Ann Green, Learning Supports Resource Teacher
- Lyndsay Serino, Learning Supports Resource Teacher
- Joanna Jewel, Learning Supports Resource Teacher
- Kim Hoogsteen, Assistive Technology SSP
- Carly Hubbard, Special Education Secretary

Special Education Team members were thanked for attending.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee George Saarinen

Seconded by Suzanne Posthumus

“THAT the minutes of the June 19, 2019 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Business Arising From the Minutes

7.1. 2019-2020 SEAC Draft Work Plan

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC asked member if they have any further suggestion for the 2019-2020 SEAC work plan. Sub-committee members will make arrangements to meet to discuss advocacy and bring recommendations back to a future meeting.

7.2. SEAC Video

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education informed members that the SEAC video “Bridget’s Story” has been posted on the Board website and other social media platforms. There has been lots of positive feedback received including an email from Dr. Bakovic, which was shared with the members. To date the video has received over fifteen thousand views. The video was also shared at the September 6, 2019 Parent Involvement Committee meeting; Mike Otway noted it was well received by PIC however; members agreed it does not encompass the original vision of SEAC.

Liz Tod asked members if they support moving forward with a second video in light of the cost. Ian MacRae advised he will provide funding for a second video that is more congruent with SEAC’s request. Members discussed what they would like the second video to look like. A sub-committee consisting of Carey Murphy, Miranda Myers, Mike Otway, Cory Koski and Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith will meet to discuss parameters for a second video and bring recommendations to a future SEAC meeting.

Mike Otway asked if there is advocacy training is available to parents. It was suggested members from PIC could be included in future training.

Trustee George Saarinen noted that Bridget was the recipient of a scholarship award for volunteerism.

7.3. Member Presentations

Liz Tod and Suzanne Posthumus will present on their respective organizations at the October SEAC meeting.

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to share.

9. Advocacy

9.1. Advocacy Tracking

The advocacy tracking template was circulated for member completion.

9.2. 2018-2019 SEAC Advocacy Tracking Results

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC referred to the summary of last year's member advocacy tracking which was included in the meeting package. Discussion ensued. Members discussed advocacy tracking, the purpose of tracking, and what the results are used for. Information could be used as a focus for presentations. Results can also be used to track trends, inform the SEAC work plan by focusing on trends/gaps. Lori Carson noted SEAC place cards are being sent to schools to include with every IEP that is sent home. This may generate more calls for advocacy. A summary of monthly advocacy will be added as a regular agenda item to monthly meetings.

9.3. 2019-2020 SEAC Advocacy Memo

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC referred to the summary of last year's member advocacy tracking which was included in the meeting package. All members agreed to act as advocates. Members were asked to review contact information; any changes can be sent to Robin Orr by September 25. The 2019-2020 SEAC Advocacy Memo will be sent to all schools to share on social media and with families, and posted on the SEAC website. Mike Otway will share advocacy information with PIC.

10. New Business

10.1. 2019-2020 Off Site Meeting Location

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC asked members for suggestions to hold off-site meeting during 2019-2020. It was suggested visiting one elementary and one secondary school. Robin Orr will bring a list of prior schools visited to the October SEAC meeting for further planning.

10.2. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Report

Mike Otway will provide an update from the September 9 PIC meeting at the October SEAC meeting. Mr. Otway did note members were asking about training for advocacy.

11. Policies Currently Under Review

11.1. 2019-2020 Policy Review Schedule

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education shared the policy review scheduled for 2019-2020 and asked members if there were any specific policies that may be of interest / relevant for SEAC to review and provide input into. Members suggested the following policies for review:

- 4021 Assessment and Evaluation,
- 6050 Food and Beverage,
- 6061 Administration of Oral Medication, and
- 6062 Anaphylaxis and Medical Emergency Management.

Board staff responsible for reviewing policies will be invited to present individual policies and provide SEAC a platform to offer input.

12. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC noted that due to personal reasons both Therese Zaroski, Community Representative, and Ruth Vannieuwenhuizen, Alternate Community Representative has both resigned as members of SEAC.

Members discussed options to fill a community representative vacancy, and where to advertise. Mike Otway noted, if SEAC is going to recruit individuals applying would need to understand their role in advance. The option for Carey Murphy to step down as the alternate representative for LDAO and assume a community representative role was tabled and discussed. It was agreed SEAC would like to fill the community representative positions. Ian MacRae suggested PIC could share their recruitment process. Members were asked to email Robin Orr by September 30 with preferences to backfill or advertise the position, so a decision can be made at the October SEAC meeting.

Mike Otway shared that teachers from the Board, who work with deaf students, attended a VOICE conference in Toronto and provided positive feedback. Mr. Otway expressed his thanks to the Board for their support.

13. Status of SEAC Budget

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC noted that PIC has approved the carry forward of prior year funding. With the \$2000.00 allocated for 2019-2020, the opening balance for SEAC budget is \$5,707.66.

14. Board Update

Trustees George Saarinen shared the highlights of the following:

- At the June 25, 2019 Regular Board meeting a number of awards were presented including:
- Colleen Kappel and Liz Tod were presents with OPSOA Achievements Awards;
- Trustee Character Awards were presented to Derek DiBlasio, Donna Flaxza, David McQueen, Terry Lammers, Roger Castaldo, Constable Jeff Sauders and Constable Frank Tropea; and

- Jamie Plater attended her last meeting as Student Trustee, and Sierra Gaudreau was welcomed as the new Student Trustee for 2019-2020.

Trustees Sue Doughty-Smith shared highlights of the following:

- Outdoor classroom ribbon cutting ceremony at Valley Central; and
- Dr. Niigaan Sinclair session held in August 2019 who spoke about his career as a teacher and Indigenous Issues.

15. Adjournment

Moved by Mike Otway

Seconded by Trustee George Saarinen

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:15 p.m.”

CARRIED