

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Thunder Bay, Ontario

2019 OCT 16

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Tod (Chair)
Kelly Matyasovszky (Vice Chair)
Miranda Myers
Carey Murphy (A)
Suzanne Posthumus

Trustee George Saarinen
Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith
Angela Hill
Wilma Kleynendorst

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski

Lori Carson

ABSENT:

Jennifer Bean
Ashley Etienne (A)
Mike Otway

Cory Koski
Debby Dick

1. **Call to Order**

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Wilma Kleynendorst

Seconded by George Saarinen

“THAT the agenda for the October 16, 2019 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

3. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. **Presentations**

4.1. **Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO)**

Liz Tod gave a brief presentation and provided an overview of LDAO including their purpose, goals, and services provided.

4.2. **OPTIONS Northwest**

Suzanne Posthumus provided an overview of OPTIONS Northwest.

5. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Suzanne Posthumus

Seconded by Trustee George Saarinen

“THAT the minutes of the September 18, 2019 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

6.1. 2019-2020 SEAC Draft Work Plan - Advocacy

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC noted the Advocacy Sub-Committee met last week to discuss recommendations. Angela Hill provided an update to the meeting and noted:

- There has been a decline in advocacy requests – what is the reason. Is it because families have support from other organizations or are families not aware SEAC provides this service to families.
- Will be reviewing all public school boards in the province to see how they advertise and what materials are available to the public, and how they are involved with advocacy.
- SEAC information available to families may be too detailed and difficult to understand. Suggested simplifying materials to clarify advocacy role of SEAC.
- Further updates will be provided as the sub-committee continues to explore advocacy and the role of SEAC.

6.2. SEAC Video

Item was deferred to a future meeting when sub-committee has met and will report on recommendations for parameters for SEAC video.

6.3. 2019-2020 Off Site Meeting Locations

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC shared past school locations where SEAC has held meetings and asks members for input on school meeting locations for 2019-2020. The following schools were identified as sites for 2019-2020: Westmount, Hammarskjold and Sherbrooke. Michelle Probizanski and Robin Orr will review and organize school visits for future meetings.

6.4. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Report

There was no report presented.

6.5. Community Representative on SEAC

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC advised that Danielle Miller has resigned as a member of SEAC and we no longer have a community representative on the committee. Based on member feedback; the majority voted to advertise for new community representatives. Robin Orr will work with

Bruce Nugent, Communications Officer to post on social media, as well as sending to schools and posting on the Board website.

7. Correspondence

The correspondence folder was share for members' perusal.

8. Advocacy

8.1. Advocacy Tracking

The advocacy tracking template was circulated for member completion.

8.2. Summary of Monthly Advocacy Tracking

Liz Tod, Chair of SEAC referred to the advocacy tracking summary included in the meeting package. Will continue to review monthly and as we have a better understanding of provincial advocacy, SEAC can determine how to use this information to form work of the committee.

9. New Business

9.1. School Awards

Item deferred to next meeting.

9.2. IEP/IPRC Materials

Item deferred to next meeting.

9.3. OHRC – Right to Read

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education informed members that the Ontario Human Rights Commission launched a Right to Read inquiry and Lakehead Public Schools has been selected as one of the eight boards from across Ontario to participate in the inquiry. Discussion ensued. Members interested in participating can contact OHRC at the number listed on meeting attachment.

9.4. Special Education Review

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education advised SEAC members that a complete review special education will take place. More information will be shared as updates occur.

10. Policies Currently Under Review

10.1. 2019-2020 Policy Review Schedule

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education let members know that policy 6062 Anaphylaxis and Medical Emergency Management should not have appeared on the policy review schedule as this policy was

revoked in 2017 when it was incorporated into policy 6060 Prevalent Medical Conditions.

It was also noted, the Ministry of Education PPM 163 requires school Board to have a policy in place by January 1, 2020 to address Service Animals in Schools. Due to timing there will not be an opportunity to present the new policy at a SEAC meeting however, members can provide input when it is released to constituents.

11. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

Trustee George Saarinen noted Poverty Free Thunder Bay flag raising ceremony will occur tomorrow at City Hall at 10:00 am with guest speakers presenting. Tomorrow is recognized as International Day to Eliminate Poverty.

Miranda Myers noted FASIN will be holding month FASD support sessions for parents and caregivers. Ms. Myers will forward the schedule for distribution.

12. Board Update

Trustees Sue Doughty-Smith shared the following highlights:

- Brice Foster was the recipient of a Trustee Recognition Award on September 24. Brice is a member of the Canadian Men's Para Volleyball team, and is a recent graduate of Westgate CVI.
- The Board will soon have an Indigenous trustee who will be selected through the Aboriginal community. Additionally, the Board recently passed a motion to amend the Student Trustee Policy to include the appointment of two student Trustees, one of who will be a self-identified FMNI student and elected by students who voluntarily self-identify as FMNI.

Trustee George Saarinen shared the following updates from the October 8 Standing Committee meeting:

- Safe Schools System Expectation policy update; and
- PIC appointments for the period of November 2019 to November 2020.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Miranda Myers

Seconded by Wilma Kleynendorst

"THAT we do now adjourn at 6:45 p.m."

CARRIED