

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2021 FEB 17

Jim McCuaig Education Centre  
Thunder Bay, Ontario  
VIA Microsoft Teams

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Liz Tod  
Michelle Blackburn  
Trustee Sue Doughy-Smith  
Anne Antenucci  
Mike Otway  
Miranda Myers

Angela Hill  
Trustee Marg Arnone  
Wilma Kleynendorst  
Tracy Paquette

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michelle Probizanski (acting Chair)  
Indigenous Student Trustee Essex

Christine Jones

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Lesley Harding  
Ashley Etienne  
Carey Murphy  
Kelly Matyasovszky  
Anne Marie McMahon-Dupuis (acting  
Special Education Officer)

Student Trustee Talpade  
Ruth Ann Fay  
Jennifer Bean  
Suzanne Posthumus

1. **Call to Order**

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Election of Special Education Advisory Committee Chair**

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, will call for nominations at next meeting.

**Election of Special Education Advisory Committee Vice Chair**

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, will call for nominations at next meeting.

3. **Welcome and Introductions**

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, welcomed Shannon DeGiacomo-Brown & Rose Bortolon from Confederation College and Megan Tiernan, LDSB Mental Health Lead.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Wilma Kleynendorst

Seconded by Liz Tod

*“THAT the agenda for the February 17,2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”*

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6. Presentations

6.1 Shannon DeGiacomo-Brown & Rose Bortolon, Confederation College presented the committee with their community Integration Through Co-operative Education Program. All member’s questions were addressed.

6.2 Megan Tiernan, Mental Health Lead presented Lakehead District School Board’s Mental Health Strategic Plan. All member’s questions were addressed.

7. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Mike Otway

*“THAT the minutes of the January 20, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”*

CARRIED

8. Business Arising From the Minutes

8.1 SEAC Video

Update to be provided at our next meeting.

8.2 SEAC Presentations to School Council Update

Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, updated the committee with the upcoming Lakehead school council’s presentation schedule. Michelle Blackburn scheduled to present at Kingsway School February 23, 2021.

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, will remind the Senior Administration to contact Christine Jones if they would like a SEAC presentation.

9. Correspondence

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reminded everyone of the correspondence emailed regarding the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association Nomination Form and Website Link 2021.

## 10. New Business

### 10.1 Lakehead District School Board COVID-19 Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the committee with a LDSB COVID-19 update. Ministry of Education has announced that asymptomatic testing must take place at schools. Thunder Bay Health Unit will need to test one Lakehead Public School per week, all testing is voluntary. Health Unit will most likely be sending out a memo regarding additional family members staying home if a member of the household is quarantining the 14-days. Most likely an announcement from province will be forth coming, tightening up on contacts of contacts. As a result of the on-line learning and pandemic, a research study on Special Education Services has been initiated by Ministry of Education. Consultants from Ottawa University have interviewed Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education and Anne-Marie McMahon Dupuis, Acting Special Education Officer already.

All members' questions were addressed.

## 11. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, Thunder Bay & District, advised the committee April 16, 2021 is World Autism Day and anyone can registration at [raisetheflagforautism.com](http://raisetheflagforautism.com). Information to follow from our local Autism Ontario branch.

Highschool registration videos are posted on Facebook from Westgate. Committee to look at the possibilities of having a raffle for students of SEAC registered.

## 12. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the committee with an updated February 2021 SEAC budget amount of \$9810. SEAC video coming out of a different budget, not SEAC.

## 13. Board Update

Trustee Doughty-Smith provided an update on the following:

- Trustee Recognition Awards on January 26, 2021 was presented to Nancy Gardiman a Student Support Professional from Kingsway School. A second Trustee Recognition Award was presented to Sharon DeLeon, a Music and Drama teacher at Hammarskjold High School. Sharon assisted the students in creating an authentic version of "Oh Canada" created in Ojibwa and is now played weekly at their school. Hoping to locate the video that can be shared of this.
- The Standing Committee meeting on February 9, 2021, was given a system information technology presentation. Topics included the Boards information technology plan and goals. David Pineau, Activities Director, also provided a presentation on the Red Shirt Effect movement. There is a grant that is being provided to students with hardship. Red Shirt Effect videos can be found on Instagram and Lakehead District School Boards website.

- The first Budget Committee meeting has taken place and this years 2021-2022 Budget Chair is Trustee Saarinen and Budget Vice-Chair is Trustee Arnone.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Wilma Kleynendorst

*“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:17p.m.”*

CARRIED