

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2021 MAR 10

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Thunder Bay, Ontario
VIA Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Tod
Michelle Blackburn
Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith
Anne Antenucci
Lesley Harding

Miranda Myers
Kelly Matyasovszky
Trustee Marg Arnone
Carey Murphy
Suzanne Posthumus
Lori Carson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski (acting Chair)
Kirsti Alaksa

Christine Jones
Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Ashley Etienne
Angela Hill
Mike Otway
Wilma Kleynendorst
Tracy Paquette

Student Trustee Talpade
Ruth Ann Fay
Jennifer Bean
Indigenous Student Trustee Essex

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, announced there were no pre-nominations for the Chair of the SEAC Committee. Superintendent Probizanski called for nominations from the floor. Kelly Matyasovszky, Visually Impaired, Thunder Bay Region, nominated Suzanne Posthumus, OPTIONS Northwest. Suzanne Posthumus accepted the nomination. Superintendent Probizanski called for nominations from the floor three times. There were no further nominations.

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Trustee Arnone

“THAT nominations for the position of Chair of the 2021-2022 SEAC Committee be closed.”

CARRIED

Suzanne Posthumus was acclaimed as Chair of the SEAC Committee.

Election of Special Education Advisory Committee Vice Chair

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, announced there were no pre-nominations for the Vice Chair of the SEAC Committee. Superintendent Probizanski called for nominations from the floor. Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, Thunder Bay & District, self-nominated. Superintendent Probizanski called for nominations from the floor three times. There were no further nominations.

Moved by Trustee Doughty-Smith

Seconded by Suzanne Posthumus

“THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the 2021-2022 SEAC Committee be closed.”

CARRIED

Anne Antenucci was acclaimed as Vice Chair of the SEAC Committee.

3. Welcome and Introductions

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, welcomed Superintendent of Business, Kirsti Alaksa and Manager of Finance, Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk for joining the SEAC meeting this evening.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Liz Tod

“THAT the agenda for the March 10, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6. Presentations

6.1 Budget 2021-2022

Manager of Finance, Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk presented the Budget 2021-2022. All member's questions were addressed. Ms. Lee-Wiwcharyk was thanked for her time.

7. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Arnone

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the minutes of the February 17, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

8. Business Arising From the Minutes

8.1 SEAC Video Update

Stephanie Rae, Communications Officer, provided an update on the SEAC video. The message SEAC would like to be received from the video was confirmed as a mixture of both advisory and advocacy. Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Centre, suggested reviewing the SEAC Committee presentation to schools to be in-line with video once it is released.

8.2 SEAC Presentations to School Council Update

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, has reminded Senior Administration to contact Christine Jones if they would like to receive a SEAC presentation. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary will update at next meeting if future requests are received. School videos are available to be viewed through Facebook and other platforms of Social Media of Elementary and Secondary Lakehead Public Schools. High schools have also created a quick one-minute video for the students entering Grade 9. Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will be able to contact their schools for personal tours if there is a need.

8.3 Asymptomatic Testing

Superintendent of Business, Kirsti Alaksa, confirmed that LDSB will be offering Asymptomatic testing in one or two schools, per week in the near future. LDSB is currently working with Thunder Bay District Health Unit and the Catholic District School Board and hope to have some communication out once students are back to in-person learning. Asymptomatic testing is currently only for LDSB students, staff, children at daycare within LDSB and their staff, and school bus drivers. Both PCR and rapid testing will be provided by appointment only, in 30-minute time slots.

All questions were addressed.

9. Correspondence

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reminded everyone of the correspondence received this month:

- a) Confederation College contact information for 2021-2022 CITCEP Program;
- b) Ontario Public School Boards' Association Nomination deadline to submit is March 12, 2021; and
- c) SEAC Budget deputation is due March 26, 2021. Members were asked to email feedback to Christine Jones before March 26, 2021 for it to be presented at the April 6, 2021 Budget Committee meeting. Other community organizations are welcome to submit a deputation through the Lakehead District School Boards website.

10. New Business

10.1 SEAC Scholarship Award

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, reminded the committee of the in-school SEAC Scholarship Award of \$100, which was create in 2020, is available to students this year who are enrolling into post-secondary schooling. Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, also reminded the committee that if no one has applied for the in-school scholarship, then the Guidance Counselor and or staff would identify a student to receive this award.

10.2 Lakehead District School Board COVID-19 Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided a Covid-19 update to the committee. The University of Ottawa received a variety of documents from LDSB and is hopeful A Best Practices document will be issued soon. Appreciation was extended to Lori Carson, Ruth Ann Fay and Anne-Marie McMahon Dupuis for their assistance in getting that completed. Starting March 15, 2021, LDSB schools virtual learning will be extended for an additional two weeks. LDSB currently has eight special needs students using face to face learning, in the mornings at Algonquin Avenue Public School. Day treatment is also running face to face, in the mornings only. All schools are currently open and school closures can only come from the Ministry. Parents who feel they may need their children to attend face to face, should contact their schools Principals, a Superintendent or Special Education Officer to discuss further.

All members' questions were addressed.

11. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

- a. Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, provided the committee with a information from the Bright and Quirky website. This site is currently providing talks from people around the world. Liz Tod will be watching these free talks. School Boards are provided access passes with a membership. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, sent an email with the link for members for their convenience.
- b. Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, Thunder Bay & District informed members that she also currently sits on the City of Thunder Bay Accessibly Advisory Committee, who are reviewing their Junior Inclusion Services. Anybody that is interested providing feedback were asked to email her with any committee input.

12. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the committee with an updated March 2021 SEAC budget. SEAC video coming out of a different budget, not SEAC.

13. Board Update

Trustee Arnone thanked the SEAC members for all their work and provided the committee with the following update;

- The Regular Board meeting received a presentation by Ecole Gron Morgan Public School. Part of learning of the Truth and Reconciliation and the History of Canada to help them understand that words are more than just being written on a piece of paper. Learning more about our Indigenous Culture and understanding it better;
- A special motion was also passed at the Regular Board meeting, for the Trustees to send letters to the Ministry of Education and Thunder Bay District Health Unit, advising them that LDSB students needed to be moved into virtual learning due to the rising case of Covid-19 in Thunder Bay, ON.
- 2020-2021 School Calendar was updated to reflect the new 2021 Spring Break;
- A presentation on Policy 4020 Alternative Schools was received;
- Lakehead District School Board received a new appointment to the Parent Involvement Committee, Erin Waddington; and
- The Standing Committee received a presentation from Grade 5 & Grade 6 students from Whitefish Valley Public School. The intent of the video is to build kids confidence and it was very well done. The trustees also received a presentation on LDSB 3030 Purchasing Policy.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Trustee Arnone

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:15p.m.”

CARRIED