

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2021 APR 21

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Thunder Bay, Ontario
VIA Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Michelle Blackburn
Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith
Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair
Lesley Harding
Angela Hill
Mike Otway
Student Trustee Talpade

Miranda Myers
Kelly Matyasovszky
Trustee Marg Arnone
Carey Murphy
Liz Tod
Lori Carson
Indigenous Student Trustee Essex

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski

Christine Jones

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Ashley Etienne
Lesley Harding

Tracy Paquette
Wilma Kleynendorst

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, welcomed SEAC newest member, Cynthia Gomez from Anishnawbe Mushkiki.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Liz Tod

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the agenda for the April 21, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

There were no presentations.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Arnone

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the minutes of the March 10, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Business Arising From the Minutes

7.1 SEAC Video Update

Until Covid19 lock down is over, the videographer is on hold for this project. There was no update provided.

7.2 SEAC Presentations to School Council Update

Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, advised that no further presentation requests have been received to date. Will provide an update at next meeting if future requests are received.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Durham District School Board letter

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reminded everyone of the correspondence received this month from Durham District School board, March 26, 2021.

8.2 Lakehead District School Board Strategic Plan

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, reminded the committee that the draft Strategic Plan was emailed to the committee and comments were to be already to be submitted. Trustee Doughty-Smith provided additional details of the plan that was presented at the April 20, 2021 Standing Committee. Lakehead District School Board is the first School Board to have the Indigenous Education framework, and we should be very proud of the plan. Approximately, 70 people provided feedback to the draft.

9. New Business

9.1 Lakehead District School Board COVID-19 Update

Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, advised that remote learning was directed by the Thunder Bay Health Unit to assist in the number of Covid19 cases rising in the city and has now become province wide. Ministry has approved that vaccines be rolled out to employees who work with students with complex special education needs and is currently in progress. This includes all SSP, a mix of teachers and ECEs, that work with students with complex special education needs.

Approximately, 20 students with complex special education needs are currently in-person learning at various schools.

Face shields are available for students with complex special education needs if a parent were to make a request to the principal. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, will remind principals at their next principals meeting.

Lakehead District School Board has hired reengagement staff to support three different sites to support disengaged students.

9.2 Future Online Speakers

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, asked committee for their input of future on-line speakers for Fall planning. Members were asked to send suggested speakers and costs to Christine Jones. Further suggested future speakers:

- A session that would provide information of what is available in the community, an information night or a community virtual fair;
- Questions and answer session with a panel of people to field questions;
- Asking parents what their needs are by using the Lakehead District School Board webpage by survey, using incentive of gift card;
- Profile of agencies that provide support sent out individually in order for parents to read at their leisure;
- Posting a Lakehead District School Boards web page survey of what they would like to learn or hear about; and
- Launch in September 2021.

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education and Lori Carson, Special Education Officer to contact the Communication Officer to discuss.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, provided an update on the City of Thunder Bays' Accessibility Advisory Committee with regards to Thunder Bay Covid19 testing sites. The committee will be putting together pecks and social stories, that will be offered to local school boards, Autism Ontario, Thunder Bay Health Unit and any other agencies. Postings will be available at Thunder Bay's testing Covid19 sites.

Miranda Myers, Fetal Alcohol Support Information Network (FASIN), advised the committee of future F.A.S.I.N. support meetings that are coming up, and the zoom link. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will send this correspondence to the committee when received.

Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, inquired about the GLS course, Learning Strategies. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed it is currently offered in all three schools but usually not listed in the course calendar. Students in grade 9 who need to close gaps in literacy and numeracy are selected to take GLS. All students in alternative education courses take GLS as the base course as well. Principals, together with their staff, decide what is put into the course calendar for students to choose. Superintendent Probizanski will bring the idea forward for their consideration.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the committee with an updated April 2021 SEAC budget.

12. Board Update

Trustee Doughty-Smith provided the below Board update;

- 2021-2022 Budget process has started. This year trustees received virtual budget deputation presentations on April 6, 2021;
- Board Meeting of April 23, 2021, provided Transportation presentation which involved the increase of labour costs due to extra cleaning, extra routes, and a 25% drop in the riders but on a positive note it was all successful addressed;
- On April 20, 2021 at their Standing Committee meeting, they were introduced to the two new Student Trustees, who will begin a 2-year term, starting August 1, 2021; and
- The experience that our existing Students Trustees have brought to the committee and the knowledge was incredible. Trustee Doughty-Smith expressed how incredible Student Trustee Talpade and Indigenous Student Trustee Essex are.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Liz Tod

"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:25p.m."

CARRIED