

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2021 MAY 19

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Thunder Bay, Ontario
VIA Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair
Michelle Blackburn
Lesley Harding
Carey Murphy
Trustee Tuchenhagen
Cynthia Gomez

Miranda Myers
Mike Otway
Trustee Marg Arnone
Indigenous Student Trustee Essex
Liz Tod
Lori Carson

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Kirsti Alaksa
Maggie Fredrickson

Christine Jones
Mahajebeen Ebrahim

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Ashley Etienne
Angela Hill
Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith
Student Trustee Talpade

Tracy Paquette
Wilma Kleynendorst
Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Kelly Matyasovszky

1. **Call to Order**

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair, welcomed Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business and Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor.

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, introduced and welcomed Maggie Frederickson, System Special Education Principal.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Mike Otway

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

“THAT the agenda for the May 19, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

5.1 Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy and Procedures

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business and Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, presented the Accessibility Standards for Customer Service Policy.

All questions were addressed.

5.2 Hiring Policy and Procedures

Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business and Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, presented the Hiring Policy and Procedures.

All questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Mike Otway

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the minutes of the April 21, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair, advised the committee that the SEAC letter to the ministry regarding vaccine roll-out was not sent since the ministry's did initiate the rollout of the remainder of the teachers and staff

8. Correspondence

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair, reviewed the below correspondence that was emailed to the committee since April 21, 2021;

- F.A.S.I.N. Parent Support Group Meeting, no additional comments;
- Future of Masculinity Summit, no additional comments;
- Parent Involvement Committee 2021-2022. Mike Otway, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, accepted to represent the SEAC Committee for Lakehead District School Boards 2021-2022. The Parent Involvement Committee, still needs one more SEAC member and will be put on the agenda for next meeting;
- The Right to Read. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the committee the rollout will start in Fall 2021;
- Hiring Policy, members to submit input by May 28, 2021. No additional comments;
- MACSE, members to submit input deadline May 20, 2021. No additional comments;
- Conseil scolaire de district catholique des, supporting Bill 172, F.A.S.D. No additional comments; and
- Conseil scolaire de district catholique des, supporting virtual MACSE meetings. No additional comments.

9. New Business

9.1 Lakehead District School Board COVID-19 Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed we are still virtual learning across Ontario. Approximately, 30 special education students are learning in person at their schools. All staff that have chosen to be vaccinated have been. Moving forward the Ministry of Education in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Thunder Bay District Health Unit, vaccinations children 12-17 years of age, will start rolling out next week. Hopeful that after June 2, 2021, consideration of regional or provincial opening.

Proof of Covid-10 vaccination, at this time, has not been added to the nine immunization required in order for a student to attend school..

9.2 Future Online Speakers

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, and Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, have been in contact with Stephanie Rea, LDSB Communication Officer to discuss the possibilities of posting a survey on Lakehead District School Board website regarding suggested future SEAC. The committee was asked for their input on idea of what could be included in this survey posted.

Suggestions of having a one evening event that includes all members represented at SEAC to provide a presentation on the information that their organization provides to the community, calling it a carousel evening. Individual presentations or organizations to the community are also welcome.

Lor Carson, Special Education Officer, suggested perhaps having an evening with Scott McBean, Childrens Centre Thunder Bay, on coordinating service planning needs.

Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, shared that Autism Ontario would like to support an evening of carousel or separate, hopefully in the month of April 2022.

Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children Centre, would like to be part of carousel or individual evening.

Members are asked to email Christine Jones, with additional ideas and to confirm if their organization would like to be included in the carousel evening or a individual evening.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Center, advised the committee that George Jeffrey's consultation clinics are continuing to run virtually or in person throughout the summer. Consultation clinics are open to teachers if consent is received.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the committee with an updated May 2021 SEAC budget. No change in the budget, current amount of \$9310. The balance of 2020-2021 will be carried over into 2021-2022.

12. Board Update

Trustee Arnone provided the below Board update;

- Regular Board meeting on April 27, 2021. Received a presentation on the teacher induction program, supporting the growth and development of new teachers;
- the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity policy and procedures was approved;
- The AEAC policy, including an additional trustee was approved;
- Multi Strategic Plan was approved, and the trustees are very proud of the plan for the next five years;
- a letter to Ministry was also approved and sent by the trustees, regarding their concerns with the plan of virtual learning after the pandemic;
- School Year calendar 2021-2022 approved;
- at the Standing Committee on May 11, received a presentation on the English Language Learner program which is for those who are needing help learning English;
- discussed the methods of communication with families and the acceptance of all cultural backgrounds. Embracing and celebrating each person's culture with community involvement;
- LDSB supports itinerate teachers who travel from school to school supporting new students. An increase of this position of 2.5 in elementary, and by 1.33 in secondary schools was approved;
- 2021-2029 Policy review schedule was approved; and
- 2021-2022 Standing and Regular Board meetings was approved.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Mike Otway

Seconded by Liz Tod

"THAT we do now adjourn at 6:48p.m."

CARRIED