

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2021 SEP 15

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Thunder Bay, Ontario
VIA Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair
Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith
Lesley Harding
Angela Hill
Wendy Carrol

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Trustee Marg Arnone
Liz Tod
Wilma Kleynendorst
Kelly Matyasovszky

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Maggie Fredrickson

Christine Jones
Mahejabeen Ebrahim

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Michelle Blackburn
Miranda Myers

Mike Otway
Carey Murphy

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

2.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed our newest SEAC member, Wendy Carrol from Anishnawbe Mushkiki.

2.2 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, introduced the 2021-2022 Special Education Team and their roles.

All new and old team members were thanked for their time and dedication.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Wilma Kleynendorst

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the agenda for the September 15, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

- 5.1 Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, presented Lakehead District School Board's Equity Plan Feedback. All questioned were addressed.
- 5.2 Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, presented Lakehead District School Board's Student Census 2021. All questioned were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Angela Hill

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

"THAT the minutes of the June 15, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 7.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, advised the committee that the SEAC survey has been posted on Lakehead District School Board's website. This survey will provide parents the opportunity to suggest topics they would like to hear from SEAC. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will consolidate and provide updates at future meetings.
- 7.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, suggested we organize a subcommittee for the upcoming Carousel evening. The carousel evening will provide information to parents who utilize the special needs services in our community, providing them one place to learn services available to them. Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, Thunder Bay, & District will lead the sub-committee with the following organizations offering a presentation. Members were asked to send an email to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, if they would like to help with this event.
- Autism Ontario (Awareness Month);
 - Dilico Anishinabek Family Care;
 - George Jeffrey Children's Centre;
 - Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario;
 - Options Northwest; and
 - George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Autism Program.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the committee of the thank you card received from Student Trustee Simran Talpade that was sent to the committee by email.
- 8.2. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reminded the committee of the Holland Bloorview Seeking Engagement for province-wide email that was sent to the committee.
- 8.3. Wilma Kleynendorst, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, reminded the committee that a slide deck of an upcoming presentation was sent by email to the SEAC members. This email has provided members with a zoom link to the Children's Mental Health Northern Network for children zero to six years-old presentation.

9. New Business

9.1 Lakehead District School Board COVID-19 Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, advised the committee that there was one COVID-19 case in one of the secondary schools. The Ministry of Education has asked that all Lakehead District School Board employees, and all organizations and/or partners, associated with the school board must provide attestation. Any person that is currently unvaccinated will now be required to provide a negative covid test, twice weekly. Asymptomatic pilot projects will be rolled out at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute and Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute, this will provide students at high risk and/or exposure, a take home COVID-19 testing kit. Also, a variety of Lakehead District Public Schools are currently providing vaccination clinics. All member's questions were addressed.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

10.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, confirmed that the 2021-2022 Workplan was attached to last month's SEAC minutes.

10.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the below Lakehead District School Boards policies and procedures that are scheduled for review in 2021-2022;

- 3095, Student Trustee;
- 4010, Program Implementation;
- 8090, Community/Education Partnerships;
- 7020, Equitable Employment;
- 3060, Leasing of Space;
- 8091, Use of Volunteers in Schools;
- 3093, Information Security; and
- 3096, Information/Communication Technology Use.

SEAC members are asked to confirm any policies they would like to have presented to the committee. Wilma Kleynendorst, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, suggested the Community/Education Partnerships. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will send the list SEAC member by email with a link to the Board's website to view the policy and procedures.

10.3 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, reminded the committee of the survey the Ministry of Education on the proposed changes for Education and Accessibility Standards for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students. Deadline was extended to the end of September 2021. SEAC members are encouraged to take the survey. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will send the link to SEAC members.

10.4 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, recommended a resource from PAAC on SEAC calendar support to assist SEAC to coordinate meetings with what is going on in the community.

- 10.5 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, advised the committee that October is Learning Disabilities Awareness month and there are posters available. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will email the posters for members to put up at their organizations.
- 10.6 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, queried if LDSB laptops could be individually setup to assist special needs students. Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, will follow-up next meeting.
- 10.7 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed that the SEAC video is still in the works but delayed.
- 10.8 Wilma Kleynendorst, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, informed the committee members that she has submitted her papers for retirement for December 2021 and that December 2021 will be her last SEAC meeting.
- 10.9 Wilma Kleynendorst, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, advised the committee that Dilico Anishinabek Family Care received approval September 15, 2021, from District Services Administration Board and Thunder Bay Health Unit to reopen of the Early on Centers in Thunder Bay, ON.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed the Parent Involvement Committee approved the carry-over into 2021-2022 and will be added to the current budget.

12. Board Update

Trustee Arnone, provided the below Board update;

- 12.1 At the June 22, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, the following reports were presented:
 - OPSBA achievement awards;
 - Student Trustee final report;
 - Audit Committee report;
 - Human Rights Equity and Inclusion Education report;
 - 2020-2021 Review to deliver special education programs and services report;
 - Appointment to Supervisory to alternative learning report;
 - Policy reviews on the following;
 - 3100, Accessibility Standards for Customer Service;
 - 7021, Teacher Hiring Policy;
 - 7022, Conflict of Interest Hiring Policy; and
 - 2021-2022 Budget approval report.
- 12.2 At the September 14, 2021 Standing Committee Meeting, the following were presented;
 - 2021-2023 Appointment of Student Trustees;
 - Report on Supervised Alternative Learning Program;
 - Safe and Accepting Schools; and

- Appointment to SEAC.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Wilma Kleynendorst

Seconded by Liz Tod

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:25p.m.”

CARRIED