

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2021 OCT 20

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
Michelle Blackburn
Carey Murphy

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Trustee Marg Arnone
Liz Tod
Wilma Kleynendorst

Miranda Myers

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Maggie Fredrickson
Anne Marie McMahon-Dupuis

Christine Jones
Megan Semeniuk

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Mike Otway

Kelly Matyasovszky

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

2.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed Anne Marie McMahon-Dupuis, System Principal.

2.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, who introduced LDSB 2021-2022 Mental Health Team and their roles:

- Carmen Kijanen, Social Worker;
- Erin Murphy, Social Worker;
- Debra Parks, Social Worker;
- Amy Rubino-Start, Social Worker;
- Tegan Tsubouchi, Social Worker;
- Lauren Dupuis, Social Worker;
- Kyla Francis, Social Worker;
- Nikki Williams, Child and Youth Worker;
- Jennifer Johnston, Attendance Counsellor; and
- Theresa McMillan, Attendance Counsellor.

The Mental Health team was thanked for their time and dedication.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Wilma Kleynendorst

“THAT the agenda for the October 20, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

5.1 Anne Marie McMahon-Dupuis, System Principal, presented the results of the 2020-2021 Special Education Audit report. All questions were addressed.

5.2 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, presented a presentation on Learning Disabilities Awareness as October is Awareness month. All questions were addressed. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will forward the Learning Disabilities link to the SEAC.

5.3 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education System Principal, provided the Lakehead District School Board’s Special Class Placement Committee. All questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Arnone

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the minutes of the September 15, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the committee that one suggested topic was received, “Cortical Visual Impairment” and suggested that this be included in the upcoming SEAC carousel evening. Michelle also suggested sending out the survey again in January/February 2022. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will email the suggested topic to the committee and put on the SEAC January 2022 agenda.

7.2 Anne Antenucci, Vice Chair, provided an update on the SEAC carousel evening. The organizations that have offered to participate are listed below and are asked to create a few slides to speak to at the carousel evening. The floor would be open for questions and/or perhaps breakout rooms created for confidentiality reasons. Contact information to be sent to the attendees of the carousel evening. Leslie Harding, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, offered to assist in the evening. Advertising would be necessary to make the event a success.

- Autism Ontario;
- Dilico Anishinabek Family Care;
- George Jeffrey Children’s Centre;
- Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario;

- Options Northwest; and
- George Jeffrey Children's Centre, Autism Program.

7.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the committee that the video required a small edit and should be ready next month.

7.4 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education System Principal, provided the committee with an update on special education laptops. All questions were addressed.

8. Correspondence

8.1. Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, reminded the committee of the feedback survey that was sent is now closed and hope to share the results.

8.2. Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, reminded the committee of the Learning Disabilities Awareness posters that were sent to the committee by email.

8.3. Miranda Myers, Fetal Alcohol Support Information Network, reminded the committee of the Caring for Caregiver free seminar taking place on October 21, 2021, that was sent to the committee by email.

8.4. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed that the list of LDSB policies and procedures up for constituent input in the 2021-2022 school year were emailed but are also available on the LDSB website.

9. New Business

9.1 Lakehead District School Board COVID-19 Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provide the committee with a the COVID-19 update. All member's questions were addressed.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

10.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the Right to Read. It is expecting the recommendation will be out in February 2022. All questions were addressed.

10.2 Anne Antenucci, Vice Chair, advised the committee of a pilot program that Thunder Bay Skating Academy is doing with the help of Autism Ontario. Can Skate and Skate Canada are developing the sensory skating program starting in the Fall 2021. Official launch will be in January 2022 for children under the age of 16.

10.3 Wilma Kleynendorst, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, informed the committee of that LDSB, has asked for support from local agencies, to help assist with screening the junior and senior kindergarten students. Some students may have additional struggles due to COVID-19, as some children might not have had the opportunity to attend daycare. Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and Children's

Centre Thunder Bay, will assist with the first step, screening ages and stages questionnaire.

10.4 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, shared that her son was recently recognized for a scholarship received through Empower Kids Ontario and the support that her son had received while a student at Hammar skjold High School that helped to contribute to his success.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, stated that there was no change to the 2021-2022 budget.

12. Board Update

Trustee Doughty-Smith provided the following Board update;

12.1 At the September 28, 2021 Regular Board meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Student Trustee Report; and
- Student Achievement Report.

12.2 At the October 12, 2021, Standing Committee meeting, the following was reported:

- Staples donation, went to Algonquin Avenue Public School to purchase technology equipment; and
- 2021-2022 Parent Involvement Committee nominations.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Wilma Kleynendorst

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:49p.m."

CARRIED