

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Virtual  
Via Microsoft Teams

2021 DEC 08

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair  
Trustee Ryan Sitch  
Liz Tod  
Michelle Blackburn  
Miranda Myers

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair  
Trustee Marg Arnone  
Carey Murphy  
Wilma Kleynendorst

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michelle Probizanski  
Maggie Fredrickson  
Kirsti Alaksa

Christine Jones  
Stephanie Rea

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Kelly Matyasovszky  
Wendy Carrol  
Mike Otway

Angela Hill  
Lesley Harding

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed the following guests:

- Stephanie Rea, Communications Officer, LDSB;
- Katrena Brindley and Jennifer Logan, Superior Life Skills;
- Kirst Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, LDSB; and
- Ryan Sitch, Trustee, LDSB, SEAC newest member.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Wilma Kleynendorst

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

*“THAT the agenda for the December 8, 2021 SEAC meeting be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

- 5.1 Katrena Brindley and Jennifer Logan from Superior Life Skills provided a presentation on Superior Life Skills. All questions were addressed.
- 5.2 Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, presented the 8090 Community Education Partnership Policy and Procedure. Suggested policy input needs to be emailed to Christine Jones or through the Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) website before January 19, 2022. All questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Arnone

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

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

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 7.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided further clarification of the SEAC Advocacy role.
- 7.2 Stephanie Rea, Communications Officer, presented the updated SEAC video that will be posted to LDSB website.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 Wilma Kleynendorst, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, presentation on Immunization Anxiety. A zoom link for this presentation will be forwarded from Sarah Niles, the replacement representative from Dilico Anishinabek Family Care. The presentation is expected to be February 1 or February 2, 2022.
- 8.2 Waterloo Region District School Board, online learning supports and universal design.
- 8.3 Superior Life Skills brochure.

9. New Business

- 9.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided a multi-disciplinary team update. All member's questions were addressed.
- 9.2 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided the committee with the current situation of LDSB staff shortages. The following motion was carried:

## Approval of Letter to Ministry of Education

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Wilma Kleynendorst

*“THAT the Lakehead District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee write a letter to the Minister of Education, regarding the current shortages of Student Support Professionals in the Province of Ontario and the affects it is having on our students and their families.”*

CARRIED

9.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the following update:

- mandatory vaccine for all students playing SSSAA sports ;
- secondary semesters are back with four periods;
- Covid-19 cases have increased. Elementary cohorts are to be dismissed for 10 days - all students are encouraged to be tested immediately and then again at day seven. Secondary vaccinated students are able to stay at school;
- Ministry of Education issued Level One American Sign Language curriculum to be included in secondary schools. This course will be offered at Westgate CVI and Hammarskjold High School;
- Lakehead District School Board received transfer payments from the Ministry of Ontario for Special Education Covid-19 Support. This will provide temporary support of Student Support Professionals and a Special Education Facilitator. Mental Health Covid-19 Support funds were also received. These funds will support a social worker, a child youth worker, attendance counselor and co-curricular programs;
- pediatric clinics will continue to be supported by LDSB; and
- financial support was received for the Autism After Schools Development Program and is now supported in the Grants for Student Needs.

## 10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

10.1 Trustee Sitch expressed his commitment of support to SEAC, as this is his first SEAC meeting attended.

10.2 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, informed SEAC that information on the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) was received and the Ontario Entry to School Program will be launching in September 2022. The program provides support for Kindergarten to Grade One transitioning from their home to school. A suggestion to have a representative from George Jeffrey Children’s Centre attend the next LDSB Kindergarten information registration evening. Michelle Blackburn, GJCC, will provide an OAP presentation at the next SEAC meeting on January 2022 and will send any additional correspondence to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, for SEAC.

10.3 Trustee Arnone shared a message from Trustee Susan Doughty-Smith, expressing her gratitude to all members of SEAC.

10.4 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed that the Kindergarten registration evening is being held at Ecole Elsie MacGill, currently in person this year, and Grade 8 open houses, currently in person, at all secondary schools. Members are asked to confirm their attendance by sending an email to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, if they are interested in representing SEAC.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the committee that the Parent Involvement Committee donated \$1500 to the 2021-2022 SEAC budget.

12. Board Update

Trustee Arnone provided the following Board update:

12.1 At the November 23, 2021 Regular Board meeting, the following reports were presented:

- International Education Report;
- Policy Review – 3040 Transportation;
- Policy Review – 3071 Advertising;
- By-Law 2021 Committee was created. Members include Trustee Chambers, Trustee Arnone, Trustee Sitch, Trustee Tuchenhagen; and
- By-Law 2021 Tax Levy Report;

12.2 At the December 7, 2021 Annual Meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair;
- Election of Coordinating Committee;
- Directors Annual Report;
- Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee;
- Parent Involvement Committee Annual Report;
- Special Education Advisory Committee Annual Report;
- Thunder Bay Public Library Board Appointee Annual Report; and
- Trustee Appointments to Board Committees and Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

Trustee Arnone, Suzanne Posthumus, OPTIONS Northwest and Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, expressed their gratitude to Wilma Kleynendorst, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, on behalf of LDSB and the committee members.

All SEAC members were thanked for their dedication to SEAC throughout the year.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Wilma Kleynendorst

*“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:50p.m.”*

CARRIED