

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Virtual
Via Microsoft Teams

2022 JAN 19

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair
Trustee Ryan Sitch
Liz Tod
Angela Hill
Carey Murphy
Wendy Carrol

Miranda Myers
Trustee Marg Arnone
Michelle Blackburn
Lesley Harding
Kelly Matyasovszky

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Megan Semeniuk

Maggie Fredrickson
Melissa Stolz, GFCC

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Mike Otway
Christine Jones

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair

1. **Call to Order**

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair, welcomed the following guests:

- Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, LDSB; and
- Melissa Stolz, George Jeffrey Children's Centre.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Liz Tod

Seconded by Trustee Arnone

"THAT the agenda for the January 19, 2022, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

5.1 Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, presented the Mental Wellness at Lakehead Public Schools. All questions were addressed.

5.2 Melissa Stolz, Behavior Support Services Program Supervisor, George Jeffrey Children's Centre, presented the Ontario Autism Program. All questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Michelle Blackburn

Seconded by Trustee Sitch

"THAT the minutes of the December 8, 2021, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair, will provide an update on the SEAC carousel evening at the next SEAC meeting.

7.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed that the Grade 8 SEAC booth will be put on hold, as the Grade 8 open house will most likely be virtual.

7.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed a letter was sent to the Ministry of Education, Stephen Lecce, on behalf of SEAC, regarding Student Support Professionals (SSPs) shortages. All members should have received an email with a copy of this letter from Christine Jones, Executive Secretary.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Letter from Waterloo Regional District School Board on supporting Bill 172.

8.2 Letter from Niagara District School Board regarding Ontario nurse shortage.

9. New Business

9.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided a multi-disciplinary team update. They also continue to provide support for staff shortages. Many staff members are absent due to COVID-19. All members' questions were addressed.

9.2 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided the Committee with an update on special education virtual learning.

9.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the following updates:

- Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 144 Bullying Prevention & Intervention. Changes will be presented at the next meeting;
- Kindergarten open house have been moved virtually;
- Student Support Professional shortages; and
- COVID-19 antigen tests have been provided for students and N95 masks for LDSB staff. Also, LDSB will be reporting COVID-19 cases to classroom parents and guardians. All members' questions were addressed.

9.4 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, updated the committee on special education transitional supports for Grade 8 to Grade 9.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

10.1 Trustee Sitch expressed concern that the letter issued to the Ministry of Education should have also been addressed to the Ministry of Health, who made the decision, and the Ministry of Finance, who made the funding decision, and also copied to the Premier of Ontario.

10.2 Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair, advised that the Ontario Autism Ontario and Northern Autism Families have also issued a letter to the Ministry of Education and copied the Premier of Ontario, on how the shortages of SSPs and ECEs have affected students with autism.

10.3 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, suggested the Right to Read be presented once released.

11. SEAC Budget Update

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

12. Board Update

Trustee Arnone provided the following Board update:

12.1 At the January 11, 2022 Standing Committee meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Health and Safety Program – Semi-Annual Report;
- The Arts;
- Policy Review – 8071 Bullying Prevention and Intervention Update;
- Policy Review – 4022 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition;
- Policy Review – 4023 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students; and
- Policy Development – Safe Arrival.

Trustee Sith also confirmed that LDSB trustees will be issuing a letter to the Government of Ontario regarding COVID-19 related issues.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Liz Tod

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

“THAT we do now adjourn at 8:07 p.m.”

CARRIED