

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Virtual
Via Microsoft Teams

2022 FEB 16

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Trustee Marg Arnone
Angela Hill

Miranda Myers
Trustee Sue Doughty-Smith

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Christine Jones

Maggie Fredrickson

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Mike Otway
Liz Tod
Carey Murphy
Kelly Matyasovszky
Michelle Blackburn

Trustee Ryan Sitch
Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair
Wendy Carrol
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**

There were no introductions.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Angela Hill

Seconded by Trustee Arnone

“THAT the agenda for the February 16, 2022, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. **Presentations**

There were no presentations.

6. **Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by Trustee Arnone

Seconded by Angela Hill

“THAT the minutes of the January 19, 2022, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, advised that Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair, sent her regrets for this meeting and will provide a carousel evening update at the next SEAC meeting.

7.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, advised the committee that the Kindergarten Open House will be held virtually on March 1, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. and is expected to run approximately 30-minutes. The event will consist of parents and their little ones attending the event together to watch a video of a Kindergarten educator pair from Kingsway Park Public School reading the story “What’s my Superpower?” by Aviaq Johnston, followed by a creative follow-along activity for the children involving a Lakehead Public Schools (LPS) T-shirt and washable markers. The parents will also watch a four-minute video introducing LPS.

Parents are asked to pick up a gift bag for their future Kindergartener at any Lakehead Public elementary school prior to the event, containing the book, a LPS T-shirt, and washable markers, providing the children all they need to follow along during story time and the special activity.

7.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, advised the Bullying Policy update will be presented at the next SEAC meeting, as it is still being reviewed.

7.4 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed that the expected public release of the Right to Read at the end of February, at which time she will present to SEAC.

8. Correspondence

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, reviewed the following correspondence sent to all SEAC members:

- Diversity Presentation, Eventbrite, LDSB;
- Support for Bill 172, FASD, Algoma DSB;
- Ontario Public School Board Award;
- Northern Ontario Autism Research Project, LDSB;
- Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding, Durham DSB;
- Online Learning Supports, Renfrew County CDSB; and
- Safe Arrival Policy, LDSB.

9. New Business

9.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided the following update on the multi-disciplinary team:

- the team continues to provide support for staff shortages as many staff members continue to be absent due to COVID-19;
- the team continues to provide whole class presentations on subjects such as; Mental Health, Healthy Relations and Tools to Help Student Self-regulate;
- registration for our Kindergarten has begun and the team has started the transitional planning with various children care centers and resource consultants from Children's Centre of Thunder Bay. This planning is to assist with a successful transition and ensuring that the appropriate supports and resources are in place;
- the Multi-Disciplinary team will be providing training to the Student Support Professionals on the next PA Day of March 4, 2022;
- the Empower Reading program is also being supported by central supports in assisting students that have fallen behind; and
- Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, expressed her appreciation for the support of Maggie Fredrickson and her Multi-Disciplinary team along with Megan Semeniuk and her Mental Health team.

All members' questions were addressed.

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

- the Board continues to inform parents of COVID-19 cases in their children's classes;
- Rapid Antigen Tests continue to being provided to students and staff when required; and
- Student Census was launched on February 14, 2022. This survey is for Kindergarten to Grade 12, and over 800 responses have been received to date.

All members' questions were addressed.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

10.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed the replacement member for Wilma Kleynendorst, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, will be at the April 20, 2022, meeting as the Board needs to approve her appointment.

10.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, asked the members to share with the community that we are still looking for two Community SEAC members.

10.3 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, asked if any SEAC members that have provided any advocacy in this school year to please send an email to Christine Jones of the details.

10.4 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, had enjoyed a recent visit with students at Westgate CVI.

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:

At the January 25, 2022, Regular Board meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Recommendations from the Standing Committee;
- Budget Process - Establishment of 2022-2023;
- Budget Committee;
- Early Learning Report;
- Information Technology Report;
- Audit Committee Annual Report; and
- Recommendations from the Audit Committee.

At the February 8, 2022, Standing Committee meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Trustee Determination and Distribution (Election Report);
- The Arts;
- 2022-2023 School Year Calendar;
- Policy Review – 4023 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) for Mature Students;
- Policy Review – 3095 Student Trustee;
- Policy Review – 4010 Program Implementation;
- Policy Review – 8090 Community/Education Partnerships; and
- Policy Review – 3020 Annual Evaluation of the Director of Education.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Arnone

Seconded by Trustee Doughty-Smith

“THAT we do now adjourn at 6:36 p.m.”

CARRIED