

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Boardroom
Hybrid via Microsoft Teams

2022 OCT 19

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lesley Harding
Trustee Marg Arnone
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen
Angela Hill
Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair

Sarah Niles
Carey Murphy
Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Wendy Carrol

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Christine Jones

Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Maggie Fredrickson

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Liz Tod
Mike Otway
Michelle Blackburn

Kelly Matyasovszky
Miranda Myers

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 of SEAC, welcomed Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, the Special Education Placement Committee, and the Mental Health Team.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Leslie Harding

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

“THAT the agenda for the October 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 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, introduced the following 2022-2023 Special Class Placement Committee and their roles:
- Alana Carli, Special Education Facilitator;
 - Mark Moorehouse, Principal;
 - Corrine Russell; Principal;
 - Laureen Currie; Special Education Manager, Hammarskjold High School;
 - Laura Bortolin, Special Education Manager, Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute;
 - Ruth Ann Fay; Special Education Resource Teacher;
 - Dr. E. Rawana; Consulting Phycologist;
 - Darren Lentz, Principal; and
 - Nikki Marks, Principal.
- 5.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented Lakehead District School Boards (LDSB) 2022-2023 Mental Health Team and their roles:
- Carmen Kijanen, Social Worker;
 - Erin Murphy, Social Worker;
 - Debra Parks, Social Worker;
 - Amy Rubino-Start, Social Worker;
 - Brittany Eisenbach, Social Worker;
 - Kyla Francis, Social Worker;
 - Jennifer Johnston, Attendance Counsellor; and
 - Theresa McMillan, Attendance Counsellor.

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

- 5.3 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, presented an overview of the 2021-2022 Summer Learning Programs that LDSB offered. The camp ran from July 4, 2022, to July 22, 2022 with approximately 344 students in attendance. The staff included:
- 2 Summer Program Coordinators;
 - 31 Teachers;
 - 3 English Language Teachers;
 - 2 Early Child Educators;
 - 5 Students Support Professionals;
 - 8 Early Literacy Tutors;
 - 3 Student Support Workers;
 - 1 FNMI Community Liaison Officer;
 - 10 Cooks on site to prepare meals;
 - 2 Summer Students;
 - 3 Supervising Administrators.

All students went home with backpacks, hats, and water bottles. Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, extended the appreciation to this team in making this such a great success.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Arnone

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the minutes of the September 14, 2022, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, proposed the following policies and procedures will be asked to be presented to the committee input:

- 6010 Emergency Evacuation and School Closure;
- 7060 Staff Training;
- 8070 Safe Schools – System Expectations; and
- 3092 Privacy and Information Management.

Members were reminded to email Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, of additional policies they would like to have presented.

7.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that the LDSB Pediatric Clinic, is a shared partnership with Dr. Bakovic. Principals submit referrals for students who are struggling to manage in school. The clinic is attended by the parents of the student, Dr. Rawana, LDSB Consulting Psychologist, Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, Dr. Bakovic, Pediatric Doctor, Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education.

8. Correspondence

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

- SEAC Nomination forms, LDSB; and
- In-person meeting survey, LDSB.

9. New Business

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

- Ten LDSB staff members will be attending a workshop titled: Maximizing Outcomes for individuals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) in a learning environment, put on in partnership with Norwest Community Health Centre. Lakehead District School The board is seeing an increased FASD diagnoses. Hoping to bring a presentation on the workshop take aways;
- Afterschool Skills Development Program is running well with support from Superior Life Skills;
- LDSB will be holding a Job Fair on November 9, 2022, as we continue to struggle with staff shortages;

- Kim Hoogsteen, SEA Learning Support Student Support Professional, and Ruth-Ann Fay, Special Education Resource, Teacher completed a two day visit to our Armstrong Public School;
 - The Special Education Program Committee continues to meet every three weeks and are currently reviewing the programs to ensure students needs are met. Hopeful to bring recommendations to the committee in April 2023; and
 - The Empower training has been completed for all Special Education Facilitators.
- 9.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, shared it was suggested that SEAC hold a Special Parent Event in Spring 2023. If members have any suggested topics and/or suggested speakers, to please email this information to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary.
- 9.3 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, shared that all LDSB secondary schools will be having their Grade 8 Evening, dates to be confirmed. Members are asked if they are interested in representing SEAC to email Christine Jones, Executive Secretary. Reviewing promotional items and gives away for these evenings were discussed.
- 9.4 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, asked members to share their input for updating the SEAC Pamphlet for school newsletters. Carrie Murphy, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, advised the committee that she is contacted regularly and feels parents are not aware of what SEAC is or does. Discussions of new promotional material to be included in schools newsletters be emailed to members before being discussed.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

- 10.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, reminded SEAC members to report all advocacy, allowing the proper data to be collected.
- 10.2 Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario Northern Region, shared that her committees name is officially changed to Autism Ontario Northern Region and they will continue to advocate for families. They are currently working on how to integrate and ensure community partners are speaking the same language when speaking to the Ministry. Anne will be the voice on Autism Ontario Northern Region, as someone who sits on SEAC.
- 10.3 Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario Northern Region, shared that the Sensory skating program is running again this year and have increased to ten children.
- 10.4 Angela Hill, Children's Centre Thunder Bay (CCTB), informed members that CCTB will be working with Our Kids Count,

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported that there will be a slight change in the budget after the advertisement costs for the 2022-2026 SEAC election

12. Board Update

Trustee Arnone provided the following Board update:

At the September 27, 2022, Regular Board meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Special Education Advisory Committee Nomination;
- Compliance Audit;
- Honoraria for Board Members; and
- Anti Sex Trafficking Protocol.

At the October 11, 2022, Board Advisory Committee, the following reports were presented:

- Appointments to the Parent Involvement Committee;
- Director's Action Plan;
- Summer Learning Program;
- Grade 6 Book Study – The Barren Grounds by David A. Robertson;
- FMNI Summer; and
- Special Education Review.

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, thanked Trustee Arnone on behalf of SEAC for her dedication and input on the committee and that she will be missed.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Arnone

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:25 p.m.”

CARRIED