

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jim McCuaig Education Centre  
Boardroom

2022 NOV 16

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair  
Anne Antenucci, Vice-Chair  
Trustee Leah Vanderwey  
Lesley Harding

Michelle Blackburn  
Liz Tod  
Mike Otway  
Sarah Niles

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michelle Probizanski  
Christine Jones

Maggie Fredrickson

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Kelly Matyasovszky  
Miranda Myers  
Angela Hill

Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen  
Trustee Pat Johansen  
Wendy Carroll

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, welcomed Trustee Leah Vanderwey and Inga Anderson-Foster, Program Resource Teacher.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Mike Otway

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

**CARRIED**

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

- 5.1 I. Anderson-Foster, Program Resource Teacher, presented Lakehead District School Boards (LDSB) 2022-2023 Early Language Learners with Possible Special Education Needs. Members are asked to forward the feedback or input to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary. All members' questions were addressed.
- 5.2 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, presented Lakehead Public Schools (LPS) Multi-Tier Supports in Literacy. Members are asked to forward the feedback or input to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary. All members' questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Mike Otway

*"THAT the minutes of the October 19, 2022, SEAC meeting be approved."*

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 7.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, suggested we discuss the SEAC pamphlets at the next SEAC meeting when the new SEAC members are present.
- 7.2 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, advised that she will confirm the open houses for LDSB secondary schools and Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, will confirm the date for Kindergarten Open House that will be held at Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will send the dates to SEAC members.

8. Correspondence

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

- LPS Draft Guide to Support English Language Learners.

9. New Business

- 9.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the following special education update;
- the board continues to struggle with shortages, and unfortunately, some parents have been asked to have their children stay home due to shortages. Input from the SEAC is always welcome to help with this situation;
  - the board just completed a successful job fair for Student Support Professionals. Some interviews were completed on the spot. The board currently has approximately 80 employees on the occasional

list. Hoping that strategies such as special Fridays in December will help with attendance;

- CUPE has provided the five days' notice of strike and potential walk-out on Monday, 24, 2022. Ministry of Education memo special education students will continue to attend in person. More communication to follow;
- Section 23 class, will continue with no change;
- five LDSB employees will attend a two-day tour on November 30, 2022, at a Trillium demonstration school in Milton, Ontario, with students that have severe learning disabilities. Key learnings will be shared and assist us with the Special Education review. Feedback and advice is welcome; and
- EQAO scores will be shared at the next board meeting on November 22, 2022 and will share at the next SEAC meeting.

9.2 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, advised the committee that the board has received funds for students with special education needs and mathematics. We have chosen to work on destreamed math by focusing on grade eight students transitioning to grade 9. Training will be provided for grade seven and grade eight teachers, purchase white boards for grade 7 and grade 8 classrooms, and c-pens for grade 7 and grade 8 special education students.

9.3 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided the following update on the Right to Read key recommendations received;

- there will be a new language curriculum and we should receive it by fall 2023, but we continue implementing many changes to resources, instructional methods, professional learning in the interim;
- investigation of a screening tool for every student, at least twice a year from Kindergarten to Grade 2, to identify students at risk for reading difficulties;
- standardized, and providing stable funding for evidence-based reading interventions;
- providing access to interventions that is equitable for all students; and
- providing and supporting timely and effective accommodation, including greater access to evidence-based software and assistive technology; improving access to professional assessments and ensuring greater consistency and transparency in the assessment process - challenging due to shortages of learning assessors but working to get more assessments completed, and earlier when appropriate.

All members' questions were addressed.

## 10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

10.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, reminded SEAC members to report all advocacy to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, allowing the proper data to be collected.

10.2 Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario Northern Region, shared advocacy story of a young 10 year-old boy with autism from southern Ontario who lost his life after being missing for 48hours. Autism Ontario is moving forward with the Ontario Provincial Police to implement a registration program that would deliver an alert similar to the amber alert. All members' questions were addressed.

10.3 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, thanked out going members of SEAC, Angela Hill, Children's Centre Thunder Bay, and Kelly Matyasovszky, VIEWS, for the visually impaired, Thunder Bay Region.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, reported that there \$11,843 in the SEAC budget. It was suggested possibly spending some funds on the purchase of updated swag for the upcoming events.

12. Board Update

No report available.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Anne Antenucci

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:00 p.m."*

CARRIED