

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jim McCuaig Education Centre  
Boardroom

2022 DEC 7

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Amy Massalin  
Anne Antenucci, Vice Chair  
Suzanne Posthumus, Chair  
Trustee Leah Vanderwey  
Trustee Pat Johansen  
Lesley Harding – Teams  
Rosemarie MacLean – Teams

Alina Cameron  
Carey Murphy – Teams  
Michelle Blackburn  
Mike Otway – Teams  
Student Trustee Alexa Sagutcheway  
Tara Ingram – Teams  
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michelle Probizanski  
Christine Jones

Maggie Fredrickson

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Andrea Stach  
Liz Tod  
Miranda Myers  
Sarah Niles

Wendy Carroll  
Brandon Robb  
Trustee Donica LeBlanc

1. **Call to Order**

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, welcomed the new committee members:

- Brandon Robb, Anishnawbe Mushkiki;
- Amy Massalin, Children's Centre Thunder Bay;
- Alina Cameron, Community Member;
- Tara Ingram, Easter Seals;
- Andrea Stach, George Jeffrey Children's Centre; and
- Rosemarie MacLean, OPTIONS Northwest.

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the new 2022-2026 SEAC Binders to the committee members.

3. Elections

3.1 Election of Chair

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education explained the process for electing a Chair and Vice Chair of SEAC. Ms. Probizanski noted there were no pre-nominations for the position of Chair of SEAC. Trustee Tuchenhagen nominated Suzanne Posthumus; Ms. Posthumus accepted the nomination. Superintendent Probizanski called for nominations from the floor three times. There were no further nominations.

Motion to Close Nominations for Election of Chair

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen                      Seconded by Anne Antenucci

*“THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed.”*

CARRIED

Suzanne Posthumus was acclaimed as Chair of SEAC and assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

3.2 Election of Vice Chair

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, announced there were no pre-nominations. Trustee Tuchenhagen nominated Anne Antenucci; Ms. Antenucci accepted the nomination. Suzanne Posthumus, called for nominations from the floor three times. There were no further nominations.

Motion to Close Nominations for Election of Vice Chair

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen                      Seconded by Alina Cameron

*“THAT nominations for the position of Vice Chair be closed.”*

CARRIED

Anne Antenucci was acclaimed as Vice Chair of SEAC.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Anne Antenucci                      Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

*“THAT the agenda for the December 7, 2022 SEAC meeting be approved.”*

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6. Presentations

- 6.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the 7060 Staff Training policy and procedure. Members are asked to forward their feedback or input to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary. All members' questions were addressed.
- 6.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the 6010 Emergency Evacuation and School Closure policy and procedure. A special mention of specialized accommodation point 3.5 of the policy; "special arrangement may be needed for special needs students" needs to be revised to read "special arrangement will be needed for special needs students". Each special education student has a fire safety plan, case by case and individually to them. Suggested that additional specialized accommodations be included in the policy. Students in wheelchairs should have special considerations in lockdowns. Members are asked to forward the feedback or input to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary. All members' questions were addressed.
- 6.3 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided a presentation on the Demonstration School for students who have severe learning disabilities, in Milton, Ontario, that a few Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) employees recently visited. All members' questions were addressed.
- 6.4 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, presented EQAO for Special Education. Members were provided with a handout. Gender differences stood out and Ms. Fredrickson will reach out for further data.

7. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

*"THAT the minutes of the November 16, 2022, SEAC meeting be approved."*

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 8.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, is waiting on quotes on promotional items. Transition to High School for students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) pamphlet to be sent out to SEAC for feedback.
- 8.2 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, confirmed the dates of the secondary open houses to be as follows:
- February 8, 2023 – Superior Collegiate Vocational Institution;
  - February 15, 2023 – Hammarskjold High School; and
  - February 16, 2023 – Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institution.

Members are asked to email Christine Jones if they are able to assist with representing SEAC. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will send the dates to SEAC members.

- 8.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed the Kindergarten open house is scheduled to be in person on January 30, 2023 at Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Members are asked if they can volunteer that evening to let Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, know.
- 8.4 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, advised that there is a Trustee inquiry on “the number of students on modified programs going into destreamed classes” and at this time it was not possible to answer due to ONSIS data capturing. Ms. Probizanski, will provide data on how many are students are enrolled in destreamed or locally developed classes. Members were asked to email if further data is wanted.
- 8.5 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, asked members for their suggestions on future speakers for the upcoming SEAC parent evening. No input was received and members are asked to email Christine Jones, Executive Secretary.

9. Correspondence

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

- Special Incident Portion (SIP) Claim, Durham DSB;
- Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), LDSB; and
- Role of SEAC.

Alina Cameron, Community Member, requested a letter similar to Special Incident Portion (SIP) Claim Funding, Durham DSB, be sent on behalf of SEAC to the Ministry of Education.

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“That SEAC draft a letter on behalf of LDSB, on Special Incidence Portion Claim Funding similar to Durham DSB *be approved.*”

CARRIED

10. New Business

- 10.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the following special education update;
- the board continues to struggle with shortages but getting better;
  - the board just completed a successful job fair for Student Support Professionals, and currently onboarded 12 SSPs;
  - Pediatric clinic continues to run well;
  - Multi-disciplinary staff continue to visit schools in 6-8week blocks;
  - tutor funding continues to be used until March 2023;
  - funding for student transportation and stability support received for children in care;

- Regional Special Education Committee (RSEC), recently completed a meeting with Special Education Minister Claudine Munroe, and listened to Shelley Moore, who advocates for inclusion. Further information can be found at [fivemooreminutes.com](http://fivemooreminutes.com);
- Northern Ontario Education Leaders (NOEL), supports Northern Adjustment Funds which, considers the needs of the North. Every year there is an allocation of funds to eight boards;
- Pediatric Clinic received a grant for research on strength based approaches. There will be a presentation on this at our February 2023 meeting;
- the first planning meeting was held for the upcoming SSP learning conference, April 28, 2023; and
- the multi-disciplinary team continues to help with our most at risk students.

All members' questions were addressed.

- 9.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided an update on the Special Education Review;
- data projection collection in progress;
  - invitations for focus groups in progress and rolling out in January 2023;
  - review of individual education plans (IEP) in progress;
  - review of transitions to school program/process;
  - review of transition from elementary to secondary; and
  - recommendations to be completed for May 2023.

All members' questions were addressed.

- 9.2 Anne Antenucci, Vice Chair, provided the following update from Parent Involvement Committee (PIC);
- funds from PIC were provided to SEAC and AEAC, to go towards planning additional events;
  - AEAC is looking at using funds on branding and an event;
  - How the strike affected the special needs students;
  - the recent meeting with Minister Lecce, the parents would like to be involved, especially SEAC; and
  - the mental health of the students coming out of the pandemic and caregivers mental health evening.

Amy Massalin, CCTB, asked about PLEO, and what is available in the public. Ms.Massalin will bring more information to the next SEAC meeting.

All members' questions were addressed.

## 10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

- 10.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, needs to have the January 18, 2023, SEAC meeting moved to January 11, 2023.

- 10.2 Committees of the board need to be in person, for at least three meetings a year. If all cannot be in person, there are no exceptions for Chair, Superintendent and one additional member.
- 10.3 The advocacy tab in the SEAC binder, will discussed at the January 2023 meeting and then pamphlets will be updated.
- 10.4 Trustee Pat Johansen, shared a pamphlet from the Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC), with a list of places we could access for counselling.
- 10.5 Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario Northern Region, shared the following:
- Thunder Bay parade of lights is back and this year it includes a sensory safe area; and
  - Autism Ontario Northern Region, is working on putting a package together for families of students with Autism to provide to school boards.
- 10.6 Alina Cameron, Community Member, provided a brief introduction. Her seven-year old child attends Westmount Public School in the special needs program which has been very successful. Currently works in Epidemiology with Thunder Bay Health Unit, and advocate for Ontario Autism Coalition as the Vice President of Research.
- 10.7 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided an update on the significant need to provide the correct paperwork to access adult services for students with special education needs. Ms. Fredrickson is working with Children's Centre Thunder Bay (CCTB) to provide these assessments at a cost of three thousand dollars. Disability Services Ontario (DSO) has been connected.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the budget currently sits at \$13,815. It was suggested possibly spending some funds on the purchase of updated swag for the upcoming events.

12. Board Update

Trustee Tuchenhagen provided the following Board update:

At the November 22, 2022, Regular Board meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Ontario Public School Boards' Association Report;
- Student Trustee Report;
- Indigenous Student Trustee Report;
- Lakehead Public Schools International Education;
- 2021-2022 Education Quality and Accountability Office Report;
- Human Rights, Equity and Inclusive Education;
- 2022-2023 Directors Action Plan;
- Approval of Appointments to SEAC; and

- 3096 Information/Communications Technology Use and Electronic Monitoring policy update.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Suzanne Posthumus

Second by Anne Antenucci

*“THAT we do now adjourn at 8:18 p.m.”*

CARRIED