

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Vance Chapman Public School

2023 JAN 11

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Amy Massalin  
Andrea Stach  
Liz Tod  
Rosemarie MacLean  
Sarah Niles  
Suzanne Posthumus, Chair  
Trustee Leah Vanderwey  
Trustee Pat Johansen  
Student Trustee Alexa Sagutcheway

Brandon Robb  
Alina Cameron  
Tara Ingram  
Miranda Myers  
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen  
Student Trustee Mehar Mago  
Michelle Blackburn  
Mike Otway – Teams

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michelle Probizanski  
Christine Jones  
Melissa Stolz – Guest

Maggie Fredrickson  
Corrine Russell – Guest  
Lydia Wiita – Guest

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:**

Carey Murphy  
Lesley Harding

Wendy Carroll  
Trustee Donica LeBlanc

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed the following:

- Brandon Robb, Alternate Member, Anishnawbe Mushkiki;
- Corrine Russell, Principal, Vance Chapman Public School;
- Lydia Wiita, Special Needs Resource Teacher, Vance Chapman Public School; and
- Melissa Stolz, George Jeffrey Children's Centre.

3. Elections

Election of Vice Chair

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, announced Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, has left the committee and a new vice chair election will take place tonight. Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education and Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, were introduced as scrutineers. Since there were no pre-nominations, Suzanne Posthumus called for nominations from the floor. Trustee Tuchenhagen nominated Liz Tod; Ms. Tod declined the nomination. Suzanne Posthumus, called for further nominations from the floor three times. There were no further nominations. Members were asked to reconsider this opportunity to run as vice Chair of SEAC.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Sarah Niles

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

*“THAT the agenda for the January 11, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved.”*

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6. Presentations

6.1 Corrine Russell, Principal, and Lydia Wiita, Special Education Resource Teacher, Vance Chapman Public School, presented their Special Education Class program. All members' questions were addressed.

6.2 Amy Stach and Melissa Stolz, George Jeffrey Children's Centre (GJCC), provided a presentation on GJCC's Entry into School program. A copy of the presentation was requested. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will forward to all SEAC members. All members' questions were addressed.

6.3 Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Centre (GJCC), presented GJCC's Smart Start Hub program. All members' questions were addressed.

7. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

*“THAT the minutes of the December 17, 2022, SEAC meeting be approved.”*

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, presented the new SEAC promotional items and confirmed that a revised Transition to High School for students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) is coming.

- 8.2 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, confirmed SEAC will have a table at the following secondary open houses:
- February 8, 2023 – Superior Collegiate Vocational Institute;
  - February 15, 2023 – Hammarskjold High School; and
  - February 16, 2023 – Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institute.
- A SEAC table will also be present at LDSB Kindergarten open house on January 30, 2023, at École Elsie MacGill Public School from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Members were reminded to email Christine Jones if they are able to assist with representing SEAC at any of the events.

- 8.3 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, asked for suggestions on future speakers for the upcoming SEAC parent evening. Sarah Niles, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, suggested Dr. Mushquash and offered to reach out to confirm a date. Trustee Tuchenhausen suggested a presentation on Entry into School from GJCC. The idea of having an open speaker and keynote speaker on anxiety was mentioned.
- 8.4 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, asked for input on the advocacy role of SEAC, and the material that was emailed to them from Christine Jones, Executive Secretary. This is not a legislated requirement of SEAC. Discussion ensued and the following motion was passed:

Moved by Liz Tod

Seconded by Alina Cameron

*“THAT some SEAC members will volunteer their services to act as navigators or advocates to parents and guardians of children with Special Education needs.”*

CARRIED

SEAC members are asked to email Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, if they are willing to be a navigator or advocate. A sub-committee will be created to review the existing advocacy material.

- 8.5 Amy Massalin, Children’s Centre Thunder Bay (CCTB), provided the committee with information on Parents Lifeline of Eastern Ontario (PLEO). The group is a parent led, non-profit organization, comprised of parents of children with special education needs. Amy Massalin, CCTB, will reach out to see if PLEO is able to provide a presentation to SEAC. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will email the website to the committee for further information.

## 9. Correspondence

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

- Northern Network; Dilico Anishinabek Family Care; and
- Diversity Thunder Bay, LDSB.

10. New Business

- 10.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided an update on the Special Education Review:
- Special Education review in progress and currently receiving input from five other boards. Next week, focus groups will be drafting questions. Expect to have the final report to present to SEAC in May 2023;
  - Student Support Professional (SSP) Conference is scheduled for April 28, 2023. The following motion was passed:

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Miranda Myers

*“THAT SEAC will monetarily contribute to the conference for Student Support Professionals in the amount of \$1000”.*

CARRIED

- Transition to Secondary School, Special Education Placement Committee meeting scheduled for beginning of February.
- Kindergarten registration, the process for students with special education needs will be shared at the next principals meeting.

All members' questions were addressed.

- 10.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, asked if any members would be interested in becoming a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) representative for SEAC, as Anne Antenucci had stepped down. Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, expressed interest at the end of the meeting. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will connect Ms. Ingram with PIC.

11. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

- 11.1 Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Centre, shared Partners for Planning, from Toronto, Ontario, a non-profit organization that has some very good resources for planning. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will forward the website. This might be a good resource for our schools' newsletters.
- 11.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported that ONSIS is not complete to date but hopes to have the data sent out within the next month.
- 11.3 Alina Cameron, Community Member, shared that she is now the President of the Ontario Autism Coalition, and that it's the first time that Northern Ontario advocates have the floor provincially.

12. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the budget currently sits at \$13,284.

13. Board Update

There was no Board meeting report.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Second by Sarah Niles

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:50 p.m."*

CARRIED