

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre-MS Teams

2023 MAR 22

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Amy Massalin
Carey Murphy - TEAMS
Mike Otway - TEAMS
Michelle Blackburn
Miranda Myers - TEAMS

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Tara Ingram
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen
Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Trustee Pat Johansen
Wendy Carroll - TEAMS

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Christine Jones
Anthony Jeethan

Maggie Fredrickson
AJ Keene

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Sarah Niles
Andrea Stach
Brandon Robb
Liz Tod
Lesley Harding

Rosemarie MacLean
Indigenous Student Trustee Alexa Sagutcheway
Student Trustee Mehar Mago
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:

- AJ Keene, Superintendent of Education; and
- Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights and Equity Advisor.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

“THAT the agenda for the March 22, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

- 5.1 AJ Keene, Superintendent of Education, presented the 3092 Privacy and Information Management Policy. Any feedback to be sent to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary.
- 5.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the 2023-2024 Budget process.

All members' questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

"THAT the minutes of the February 15, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 7.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, confirmed that a date is still to be secured with Dr. Mushquash for the SEAC Parent Evening. Christine Jones, will follow-up with Sarah Niles to confirm a date.
- 7.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, asked if members would be part of an Advocacy sub-committee to review the existing advocacy material. The following members volunteered and will bring back a final document.
- Alina Cameron, Vice Chair SEAC;
 - Tara Ingram, Easter Seals;
 - Miranda Myers, FASIN; and
 - Sarah Niles, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will email the above members the existing advocacy material. SEAC members are asked to email Ms. Jones if they have completed any advocacy for SEAC.

- 7.3 Amy Massalin, Children's Centre Thunder Bay, has offered to represent SEAC at the Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Committee. Next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2023.
- 7.4 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, confirmed that SEAC funding is available to provide items for Special Education Classrooms. Maggie Fredrickson, Principal, Special Education, to bring back a list of items schools needed for their Special Education classrooms.

8. Correspondence

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

- Special Education Survey, LDSB;
- Special Education Review, LDSB;
- SIP Claim letter, Near North DSB;
- 3092 Privacy and Information Management Policy Input, LDSB; and
- Autism Ontario (AO) update, AO.

9. New Business

9.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, provided the following Special Education update:

- Student Support Professional (SSP) Conference, is scheduled for April 28, 2023, expecting approximately 190 SSP's to attend;
- Special Education Review is underway. SEAC members were reminded to submit their feedback at their earliest convenience, or a telephone call is also welcome. Parent feedback is open;
- The importance of screening was highlighted in the Right to Read Report, this has led to additional training for staff of the universal screening tool by Accadience. Pilot schools will perform the screening at the end of June 2023;
- Additional hires of SSP was completed; and
- A video is being created with our coterminous board on the Importance of the SSP Role.

All members' questions were addressed.

9.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, reminded members to send their input for the 2023-2024 SEAC Budget Deputation with Christine Jones, Executive Secretary. The SEAC Chair and Vice-Chair will work together in completed the submission for the Budget Committee Meeting of April 4, 2023.

9.3 Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, presented an update on the March 7, 2023, Parent Involvement Committee.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

10.1 Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, shared that the Red Shirt Day is scheduled for May 31, 2023. A letter has been sent to the board for their information. Further information will be emailed to Christine Jones, Executive Secretary.

- 10.2 Alina Cameron, Ontario Autism, provided an Ontario Autism Coalition update. Alina discussed the closure of Special Education classrooms across the province. Alina also indicated a change to the Ontario Autism Program that will affect approximately 3000 families, starting April 1, 2023. This will put additional pressure on school boards.

All members' questions were addressed.

- 10.3 Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Centre (GJCC), confirmed that the Smart Stub Hub, started January 1, 2023, and reminding members that parents are welcome to call GJCC and they will connect them to the Smart Stub Hub. Outreach has started with community partners. Teachers and workers are also able to connect to GJCC to remove any barriers.

12. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the budget currently sits at \$12,455.

13. Board Update

Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen provided the following update:

At the February 28, 2023, Regular Board meeting, the following reports were presented:

- Introduction of the Human Rights and Equity Advisor;
- Re-Thinking Traditional Classrooms Post-Pandemic Presentation;
- Ontario Public School Boards' Association Report;
- Student Trustee Report;
- Indigenous Student Trustee Report;
- Interim Financial Information, Audit Committee;
- Ontario Human Rights Commission Right to Read Response Report;
- 2023-2024 School Calendar Recommendations;
- 6010 Emergency Evacuation and Emergency School Closure Policy Review;
- 7050 Conflict of Interest Policy Development;
- 7060 Staff Training and Professional Development Policy Review;
- and
- 9015 Facility Partnership Policy Review.

All members' questions were addressed.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Second by Amy Massalin

"THAT we do now adjourn at 6:58 p.m."

CARRIED