

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Vance Chapman Public School

2023 APR 19

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alina Cameron	Sarah Niles
Amy Massalin	Student Trustee Mehar Mago
Brandon Robb	Indigenous Student Trustee Alexa Sagutcheway
Lesley Harding	Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Liz Tod	Tara Ingram
Michelle Blackburn	Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Miranda Myers	Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Jones	Mark Moorhouse
Kirsti Alaksa	Michelle Probizanski
Lisa Sgambelluri	Sarah Umakoshi
Maggie Fredrickson	

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Andrea Stach	Rosemarie MacLean
Carey Murphy	Wendy Carroll
Mike Otway	

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed the following:

- Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Education;
- Lisa Sgambelluri, Special Needs Resource;
- Mark Moorhouse, Principal, Westmount Public School; and
- Sarah Umakoshi, Student Support Professional.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Miranda Myers

“THAT the agenda for the April 19, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

5.1 Mark Moorhouse, Principal Westmount, Lisa Sgambelluri, Special Needs Resource Teacher, and Sarah Umakoshi, Student Support Professional, presented Westmount Public School's Special Education Classroom.

Following the presentation, members took a tour of Westmount Public School's Special Education Classroom. All members' questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Sarah Niles

"THAT the minutes of the March 22, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

7.1 Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business, was present to answer any questions regarding the 2023-2024 budget process. She thanked the committee for their SEAC deputation. All members' questions were addressed.

7.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, advised the committee that a speaker for the SEAC Parent Evening is available the beginning of May 2023. The members agreed to delay this event until October 2023. The following was discussed:

- location: Girls and Boys Club or Bowling Alley;
- speaker: Dr. Mushquash;
- all community organizations will be represented and have a table at the event, providing support to parents/caregiver/guardians, if needed;
- supervision for children;
- snacks; and
- Sarah Niles, will contact Dr. Mushquash on available dates for October 2023 and confirm at next meeting.

7.3 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair of SEAC, advised the members that some input was received on the SEAC Advocacy documents. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will update the forms and bring to next meeting.

7.4 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, confirmed the needs for the Special Needs Classrooms.

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Alina Cameron

“THAT SEAC approve a donation of \$500 for each special needs classroom to be used to enhance programming.”

CARRIED

- 7.5 Trustee Tuchenhagen requested the SEAC scholarship amounts be increased.

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Liz Tod

“THAT SEAC approve the increase of the three SEAC Scholarships from \$100 each to \$200 each and that the scholarship amounts be reviewed annually.”

CARRIED

8. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9. New Business

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

- SSP Conference quickly approaching April 28, 2023, currently 191 registered;
- the International Dyslexia Association of Ontario Conference was held last week and attended by Ruth Ann Fay, Special Education Resource Teacher, Inga Anderson Foster, Literacy Lead, a few elementary principals and educators. A special mention of Lakehead District School Board for the work that has taken place for the Right to Read Inquiry by the CEO and Director of the Dyslexia Association of Ontario.
- a few elementary teachers working on early screening tool Accadience. Pilot schools will start the screening in June 2023;
- approximately 120 students will attend Special Olympics Multi-Sports Festival at Lakehead University on April 20, 2023; and
- 2023-2024 summer programming funding is still to be confirmed.

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that she and Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, will have a virtual meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Special Education, to discuss the board's funding for special education.

All members' questions were addressed.

- 9.2 Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, provided the following update from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC);

9.3

- PIC is holding a Wellness Symposium on April 19, 2023, at Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institute.

9.4 Amy Massalin, Children’s Centre Thunder Bay, provided the following update on the Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Committee;

9.5

- pronoun stickers;
- Human Rights Statement;
- Student Leadership Summit;
- presentation by Thunder Pride;
- Special Education Update;
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Conference for Educators; and
- ETFO New Resource.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

10.1 Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children’s Centre, shared that the Empower Kids Ontario Scholarship is open until May 31, 2023. Six awards of \$2500 are available. Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal Special Education, will share the press release with the secondary principals.

10.2 Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, provided an update on Ontario Autism Coalition.

10.3 Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, shared with the committee that May 31, 2023, is Red Shirt day in support of Accessibility and Inclusion.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the budget currently sits at \$11,090.

12. Board Update

Trustee Vanderwey asked that the Board update be deferred until next SEAC meeting May 17, 2023.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Miranda Myers

Second by Trustee Vanderwey

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:37 p.m.”

CARRIED