

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board Room/Microsoft Teams
Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2023 MAY 17
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Amy Massalin
Carey Murphy
Liz Tod
Michelle Blackburn
Mike Otway
Miranda Myers

Sarah Niles
Indigenous Student Trustee Alexa Sagutcheway
Trustee Patricia Johansen
Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen
Wendy Carroll

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Jones
Maggie Fredrickson

Michelle Probizanski

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Andrea Stach
Wendy Carroll
Brandon Robb
Student Trustee Mehar Mago

Rosemarie MacLean
Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Lesley Harding
Tara Ingram

1. **Call to Order**

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

There were no guests.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

“THAT the agenda for the May 17, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

5.1 Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, presented the Special Education Review. Alsuzl members' questions were addressed.

5.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the committee that the following students will receive the 2022-2023 SEAC Scholarship Awards:

- Ella Pilot, Hammarskjold High School;
- Stephen Jones, Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institute; and
- Jordan Beamish, Superior Collegiate Vocational Institute.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Sarah Niles

Seconded by Liz Tod

"THAT the minutes of the April 19, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Sarah Niles, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, confirmed that Dr. Mushquash has confirmed his availability and will secure his attendance to present at the upcoming SEAC parent evening on October 11, 2023. The upcoming SEAC Parent Event meeting date was approved by the committee by a show of hands.

8. Correspondence

Alina Cameron, Vice-Chair, reviewed the following correspondence sent to all SEAC members:

- SIP Claim letter, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board.

9. New Business

9.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the following Special Education update:

- Student Support Profession (SSP) Conference held on April 28, 2023, was a great success and personally thanked Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education and her team;
- a special thank you was received from a special education parent sent to Maggie Fredrickson, System Principal, Special Education, with a special thank you to his teacher Mrs. Sandberg for the growth their child received from the Empower program;
- the 2023-2024 Budget was released with some increases in the Special Education program area;
- Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that she and Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, had a meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Special Education, and discussed the funding strategies put in place in the North, the uniqueness of the

North including staff shortages, asking them to review how they allocate funding to the North;

- Students with Special Education needs participated in the elementary Lakehead Public Schools (LPS) track and field day today;
- Dr. Bakovic and Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education held a webinar for Children's Healthcare Canada, Christine Jones, Executive Secretary will send the link to the video; and
- a recruitment video for SSPs and Early Childhood Educators was created, Christine Jones, Executive Secretary will send to the committee.

All members' questions were addressed.

- 9.2 Update of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) was deferred in Tara Ingram's absence.
- 9.3 Amy Massalin, Children's Centre Thunder Bay, will provide an update of the June 21, 2023, Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Committee meeting at our next SEAC meeting.

10. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

- 10.1 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, inquired how accessibility issues with materials is handled within the school board as overdrive, connected to SORA, does not support text to speech. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, will bring this item to the Accessibility Committee.

Alina Cameron, Autism Ontario, also mentioned that Jole-jole software is also not supported by text to read.

- 10.2 Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, shared a survey for all families will be sent of by Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, which is a tracking tool for parents to go on-line and record exclusions and details. The survey is active until May 28, 2023. Ontario currently has 67,000 children registered for the Ontario Autism Program, and only 3000 students currently have access to core funding.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the budget currently sits at \$9,490.

12. Board Update

Trustee Vanderwey provided the following Board update:

At the April 25, 2023, Regular Board Meeting, the following report was presented:

- Celebrating Student Achievement; Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Connections Program Re-Imagined;

- Student Success, Skilled Trades Pathway;
- 8070 Safe Schools-Systems Expectations Policy Review; and
- 3094 Electronic Meetings Policy Review.

At the May 9, 2023, Board Advisory Committee Meeting, the following report was presented:

- Introduction of 2023-2025 Student Trustee;
- Introduction of 2023-2025 Indigenous student Trustee; and
- Celebrating Student Achievement; École Gron Morgan Public School, Sense of Belonging;

13. Adjournment

Moved by Mike Otway

Second by Trustee Vanderwey

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:49 p.m.”

CARRIED