

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2023 NOV 15
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair	Student Trustee, Morgann De Franceschi
Alina Cameron, Vice Chair (virtual)	Tara Ingram
Liz Tod	Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen
Mike Otway (virtual)	Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Scott McBean	Trustee Patricia Johansen (virtual)
Alina Cameron, Vice Chair (virtual)	Wendy Carroll (virtual)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Jones	Michelle Probizanski (virtual)
Meghan Smelow	Fred Van Elburg

ABSENT WITH REGRETS:

Andrea Stach	Miranda Myers
Brandon Robb	Michelle Blackburn
Carey Murphy	Rosemarie MacLean
Lesley Harding	Sarah Niles
Maggie Fredrickson	

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed the following new members and guests:

- Scott McBean, Children's Centre Thunder Bay;
- Fred Van Elburg, Elementary Coordinator;
- Meghan Smelow, Student Success Lead; and
- Morgann De Franceschi, Student Trustee.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

"THAT the agenda for the November 15, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

- Fred Van Elburg, Elementary Coordinator, and Meghan Smelow, Student Success Lead, presented the 2023 Student Achievement Data. All members' questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

"THAT the minutes of the October 18, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

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

- FASD Conference, GJCC;
- SEAC Scholarship thank you letter, LDSB;
- ECE and Caregiver Training opportunities: FASD; and
- Annual Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee for Annual Board Meeting December 5, 2023; LDSB.

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, will present the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee at the December 5, 2023, Annual Board Meeting in Suzanne Posthumus absence.

8. New Business

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

- three staff members of the Special Education team travelled to Armstrong Public School; Ariana Price, Early Years Supports Resource Teacher, Ruth Ann Fay, Special Education Resource Teacher, and Kim Hoogsteen, SEA Learning Support SSP;
- funding approval was received from the ministry for Special Education Coop; and
- Piloting Empower at two secondary schools will begin next semester.

All members' questions were addressed.

8.2 Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, confirmed the next Parent Involvement Committee is scheduled for November 20, 2023, and will provide an update at next SEAC meeting.

8.3 Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, shared that the SEAC advocacy group was recently contacted and assisted a family in need of support.

9. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

9.1 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, shared that Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario is providing a free webinar on November 28, 2023, the topic is SORing After Primary - Morphing into Meaning. Christine Jones, Executive Assistant will forward further information.

9.2 Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, shared that the Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) visit to Queens Park on October 16 & 17, 2023, was a success and the OAC now has an open dialog for communication. Therefore, any families that have funding issues can contact the OAC Facebook page, any OAC board of Directors, or the OAC webpage.

10. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported no change to the SEAC budget.

11. Board Update

Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen provided the following board meeting highlights:

- Directors Action Plan was presented at the October 24, 2023; and
- 6020 Extended Field Trip Policy and 6021 Day Field Trip Policy was presented at the November 14, 2023 meeting.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Liz Tod

Second by Trustee Leah Vanderwey

"THAT we do now adjourn at 6:50 p.m."

CARRIED