

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2023 DEC 13
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair	Michelle Blackburn
Alina Cameron, Vice Chair (virtual)	Sarah Niles (virtual)
Carey Murphy (virtual)	Scott McBean
Liz Tod	Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen
Mike Otway (virtual)	Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Miranda Myers (virtual)	Wendy Carroll (virtual)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maggie Fredrickson	Christine Jones
Michelle Probizanski	

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 guests:

- Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

“THAT the agenda for the December 13, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. **Presentations**

- Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, presented the 3072 Advocacy Policy. All members' questions were addressed.
- Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the 7040 Violence in the Workplace Policy. PPM 120 was emailed to all committee members. All members' questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Scott McBean

“THAT the minutes of the November 15, 2023, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Correspondence

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

- Free Webinar: SORing After Primary - Morphing into Meaning. LDAO; and
- Abinojiishiik amino yawook Early ON Calendar December 2023.

8. New Business

8.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, provided the following Special Education update:

- currently working with the community child welfare agencies on the Student Achievement Protocol update;
- working with Confederation College to provide student placement opportunities for students in the Student Support Professional (SSP) and Early Childhood Educators (ECE) programs which will assist will recruitment;
- currently providing unqualified SSPs with course related opportunities;
- at the November Professional Activity Day, SSPs received a training on Special Needs in Kindergarten, and Use of Visuals, Fetal Alcohol Disorders, Right to Technology;
- at the January 2024 Professional Activity Day, Childrens Aid Society will be providing trauma in the fetal brain training;
- the Empower Program will start at two of the secondary schools in the second semester of 2024; and
- a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) has been hired and will be shared with Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board (TBCDSB).

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that Clayton La Touché, Assistant Deputy Minister of Student Support and Field Services Division, Ministry of Education, and Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour and Finance Division, Ministry of Education, were in Thunder Bay recently.

All members' questions were addressed.

8.2 Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education, provided the following Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting update of November 20, 2023:

- members were happy to learn about SEAC providing the Dr. Mushquash presentation; and

- motivational speaker, Karl Subban, is scheduled for January 18, 2023. A virtual option will also be available.

8.3 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, shared that LDSB Kindergarten Night will be held at Ecole Elsie MacGill Public School on January 15, 2024. Members are encouraged to represent their organizations at this event and Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will send out further communication on this event to the committee.

9. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

9.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, shared that PIC has allocated \$2000 to SEAC for future needs.

9.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that she Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, Dr. Linda Bakovic, Pediatrician, and Dr. Edward Rawana presented at the Council for Exceptional Children as well as at the Childrens Mental Health Organization Conference in Toronto, Ontario in November 2023.

9.3 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, shared that the Equity and Inclusive Committee is looking for a SEAC member. The next meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2024. Members are asked to email Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, if they would like to be a part of this committee.

9.4 Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Centre, shared that the Empowered Kids Ontario Scholarship has recently opened. Christine Jones, Executive Secretary, will forward to committee members after the holiday break.

10. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the SEAC budget is \$11,265.

11. Board Update

Trustee Leah Vanderwey provided the following Board meeting highlights from December 5, 2023:

- Election of Chair of the Board;
- Election of Vice Chair of the Board;
- Election of a Member and Alternate of the Coordinating Committee;
- Director's Annual Report);
- Parent Involvement Committee Annual Report);
- Trustee Appointments to Board Committees – 2024;
- Special Education Advisory Committee Annual Report;
- Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Annual Report;
- and
- Audit Committee Annual Report.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Leah Vanderwey

Second by Michelle Blackburn

"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:23 p.m."

CARRIED