

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2024 APR 17  
6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair	Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen
Alina Cameron, Vice Chair	Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Michelle Blackburn	Trustee Pat Johansen (virtual)
Liz Tod	Sarah Niles
Miranda Myers	Tara Ingram
Wendy Carroll (virtual)	

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Maggie Fredrickson	Christine Jones
Michelle Probizanski	

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:**

Mike Otway	Scott McBean
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1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed the following guests:

- Tracy Moisan, Director, Strategic Projects & Partnerships, Adopt4Life;
- Janice Sweitzer, Itinerant Teacher; and
- Erin Perozak, Itinerant Teacher.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Sarah Niles

*“THAT the agenda for the April 17, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Presentations

- 5.1 Tracy Moisan, FASD Adopt for Life, presented Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Me: Strengthening by Community. All members' questions were addressed.
- 5.2 Janice Sweitzer, Itinerant Teacher and Erin Perozak, Itinerant Teacher, presented on Itinerant Hearing. Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, expressed her gratitude for their hard work and dedication for the students. All members' questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Sarah Niles

*"THAT the minutes of the March 20, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved."*

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 7.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided a handout of the Special Education Advocacy Funding letter for input. Members are asked to email their input to Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education. The letter will be presented to the Board for approval on May 28, 2024.
- 7.2 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, shared that the Summer Literacy Conference was well attended last year. Currently no plans for a literacy event this summer.

8. Correspondence

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

- Budget 2024-2025 SEAC Input, LDSB: and
- April 2024 EarlyON, Dilico.

9. New Business

- 9.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, provided the following special education update:
- a specialized math teacher was hired for 2023-2024 just for students with special education needs;
  - Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, presented census data at the Equity meeting for all Lakehead District School Board Principals, which provided data on census that is currently being analyzed; and

- an increase of violence in schools province wide, upcoming proactive strategies training for Student Support Professionals (SSP) is scheduled for the next PA day. The kindergarten educator's professional learning focus is social/emotional learning called Second Step. An Occupational Therapist will be providing future training to all SSPs.

9.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, asked members to share any advocacy, none shared.

## 10. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

10.1 Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Centre, shared that the Empower Scholarship has two weeks left to apply.

10.2 Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Centre, shared that George Jeffrey Children's Centre is holding a transition to school evening in May, Smart Start Hub, date to be confirmed.

10.3 Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, wished members a Happy World Autism Awareness Day. The Ontario Autism Coalition has meetings scheduled at Queens Park in April/May 2024. A live event scheduled on Facebook, regarding Ontario Autism Program and Bill 74. Questions are asked to be forwarded to [questions@ontarioautismcoalition.com](mailto:questions@ontarioautismcoalition.com). As of December 2023, 6700 children are registered, 1400 children are funded and at a recent Freedom of Information (FOI) request, it received stated 6000 children waitlisted on the public funded hubs.

## 11. SEAC Budget Update

Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, reported no change to the SEAC budget.

## 12. Board Update

Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen, provided the following Board update:

On March 26, 2024 the following presentations were provided:

- Trustee Character Awards presented to Allyson Boone, Corin Bannan;
- Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair;
- Celebrating Student Achievement;
- Bus Transportation Final Costs for 2023-2024;
- Math Achievement Action Plan;
- Letter to Minister of Education, Steven Lecce re: Transportation Concerns;
- Letter to MPP, Kevin Holland, re: Transportation Concerns; and
- Letter to Minister of Finance, Chrystia Freeland, re: Federal Budget 2024-National School Food Program.

## 13. Adjournment

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:27 p.m."*

CARRIED