

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2024 MAY 15

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair	Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen
Alina Cameron, Vice Chair (virtual)	Trustee Pat Johansen (virtual)
Wendy Carroll (virtual)	Tara Ingram

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maggie Fredrickson	Christine Jones
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ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Mike Otway	Scott McBean
Michelle Blackburn	Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Liz Tod	Sarah Niles
Miranda Myers	Michelle Probizanski

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:

- Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Meeting did not have quorum; therefore approval of agenda is deferred to next meeting.

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. **Presentations**

Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, provided a presentation on Mental Health. All members questions were answered.

6. **Approval of the Minutes**

Meeting did not have quorum; therefore approval of minutes is deferred to next meeting.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

None to report.

8. Correspondence

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

- Virtual Event Consent in Capacity, Dr. Robert Butcher, Dilico;
- May 2024 EarlyOn, Dilico; and
- Smart Start Hub, George Jeffrey Children's Centre.

9. New Business

9.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, provided the following special education update:

- transportation changes to walking distances, does not apply student with specialty transportation but it does apply to children that may be diagnosed ie. Prewrite Placement students;
- school administrators will provide a list of possible students that may be affected in special needs program;
- this year summer learning we are collaborating with superior life skills;
- a new program for parents with new junior kindergarten students called Bright Beginnings that includes many community partners; and
- Empower Reading program is now running in secondary schools.

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

10. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

10.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education, shared the nominations of the SEAC Award and SEAC Scholarship;

- Hammarkjold High School Award - Ethan Cameron;
- Hammarkjold High School Scholarship - Daniel Rozenberg;
- Superior Collegiate Vocational Institution Award - Mattea Hakanen;
- Superior Collegiate Vocational Institution Scholarship - Anita Kelly;
- Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institution Scholarship - Chloe Chambers; and
- Westgate Collegiate Vocational Institution Award - Amber Fenton

10.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, asked for input on when to secure the speaker in October or November 2024, Kate Swenson for the in-person (with a virtual option available), SEAC event. Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, mentioned that Autism Northwest is also trying to secure this speaker and will confirm with Christine Jones, Executive Assistant, with regards to when.

10.3 Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, shared that Ontario Autism Coalition had various meetings at Queens Park to discuss Ontario Autism program, in particular direct billing for families and the determination of needs process. Education push to come in the Fall 2024 with politician supporters.

10.4 Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, reminded members of Red Shirt Day in support of people living with disabilities is on May 29, 2024.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, reported the balance of the SEAC budget is \$11,385.

12. Board Update

Deferred to next meeting.

13. Adjournment

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:05 p.m.”