



Office of the Director

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
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ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

**Tuesday, December 3, 2024
Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Board Room
6:00 p.m.**

Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Director of Education

Ellen Chambers
Chair

AGENDA

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. Call to Order		
2. Land Acknowledgement		
3. Election of Chair of the Board	Director	
4. Election of Vice Chair of the Board	Chair	
5. Election of a Member and Alternate of the Coordinating Committee	Chair	
6. Director's Annual Report (001-25)	S. Pharand	1
7. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Annual Report (002-25)	M. Riemer	2-5
8. Trustee Appointments to Board Committees – 2025 (003-25)	S. Pharand	6-7
9. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Annual Report (004-25)	M. Probizanski	8-19
10. Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Annual Report (005-25)	H. Harris	20-24
11. Adjournment		

Trustees (chair and vice chair) and presenters of reports will be available for comment after the Board meeting.

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2024 DEC 03
Report No. 001-25

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Public Session

RE: DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024

1. Background

Section 283. (3) of the Education Act states:

“(3) General report of chief executive officer – At the first meeting in December of each year, the chief executive officer of a board shall submit to the board a report in a format approved by the Minister on the action he or she has taken during the preceding 12 months” ... “a copy of such report shall be submitted to the Minister on or before the 31st day of January next following.”

2. Situation

It is customary that the Board receive the Director's Annual Report at the Annual or Inaugural meeting. The 2024 Director's Annual Report can be found at the following link:

<https://www.lakeheadschoools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Annual-Report-2024.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Lakehead District School Board receive the Director's Annual Report 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Director of Education

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2024 DEC 3
Report No. 002-25

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Public Session

RE: PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

1. Background

- 1.1 On December 1, 2005, the Ministry of Education released the Ontario Parent Involvement Policy which outlined the need for the establishment of Board level Parent Involvement Committees (PICs). Lakehead District School Board established its first Parent Involvement Committee in June 2006.
- 1.2 In September 2010, the Ministry of Education adopted Ontario Regulation 330/10 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees requiring each school board to establish a Parent Involvement Committee that adheres to the requirements outlined in legislation.
- 1.3 The Parent Involvement Committee operates under the By-Laws that were established in 2011 and are reviewed bi-annually.
- 1.4 Sec. 50. (1) of Regulation 330/10 requires that *“A parent involvement committee of a board shall annually submit a written summary of the committee’s activities to the Chair of the Board and to the Board’s Director of Education.”*

2. Situation

2.1 The 2023-2024 Parent Involvement Committee was comprised of the following members:

Member's Name	Group Represented
Morning Star Tom	Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Member
Laura Prodanyk	Community Representative
Michelle Riemer	School Council Representative
Ahmed Bediwy Julie Morin Robin Cawlishaw Jena Samakese Chelsea Siver Lorraine Mashongoane Dawn-Marie Francis	Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member Parent Member
Carla Mulholland Adora-Lee Nawagesic Terry Godick Brittany Kennedy	Alternate Parent Member Alternate Parent Member Alternate Parent Member Alternate Parent Member
Tara Ingram	Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Shannon Jessiman (Jan. – June) Kristi Lees (Sept. – Dec.)	Principal Representative Principal Representative
Fred Van Elburg Connor Pratt	Teacher Representative Alternate Teacher Representative
Ellen Chambers George Saarinen	Trustee Representative Alternate Trustee Representative
Sherri-Lynne Pharand	Director of Education
Judy Hill (Jan. – Sept.) Brenda Barradell (Oct. – Dec.)	Executive Assistant
Jamie Smith	Communications Officer

2.2 Four meetings were held: March 4, May 6, Sept. 9, and Nov. 18, 2024.

- 2.3 Regular meetings included opportunities to receive information and to give feedback on topics such as:
- 2024 – 2025 Budget;
 - Skilled Trades Presentation;
 - PIC Budget Deputation;
 - PIC Representative on Equity and Inclusive Education Committee;
 - OPSBA 2024 Awards Program;
 - PIC Representative on School Calendar Committee;
 - Summer Programs Presentation;
 - PIC Recruitment;
 - Kindergarten Registration Evening;
 - Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee; Special Education Advisory Committee Funding for 2024-2025;
 - Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Report (at each meeting);
 - Special Education Advisory Committee Report (at each meeting); and
 - Director's Report (at all meetings).

- 2.4 The Parent Involvement Committee provided input to the Board's 2024-2025 Budget.

- 2.5 Funding was provided to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and the Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) to support activities for parents.

The Special Education Advisory Committee requested and received approval from the PIC committee to carry forward the funds. They plan to offer another parent session in the Fall of 2024.

The Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee expressed their appreciation of the annual funding. They requested and received approval from the PIC committee to carry forward the funds. Their plan was to combine these funds with the 2024-2025 funds to host a Welcome Back event in the fall of 2025. This funding will allow more families to join the event by providing additional supports such as transportation and food.

- 2.6 The Parent Involvement Committee's top priorities are:
- a) to enhance student success by supporting mental health and wellbeing initiatives;
 - b) to support effective parent/guardian communication and engagement via multiple communication tools and technology; and
 - c) to support parent/guardian engagement and inter-school communication by collaborating with the School Council Chairs.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The Parent Involvement Committee acknowledges the Board for its support of parent involvement.
- 3.2 The Parent Involvement Committee members are to be commended for the time and commitment they have given to the activities of the committee.
- 3.3 Future meetings of the 2024 - 2025 Parent Involvement Committee are scheduled for March 3, May 5, and October 6, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

CHELSEA SIVER
Chair of Parent Involvement Committee

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2024 DEC 03
Report No. 003-25

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD - Public Session

RE: TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS ON BOARD COMMITTEES - 2025

1. Background

- 1.1 Trustee appointments to Lakehead District School Board committees took place on November 26, 2024.
- 1.2 Trustees meet informally to determine a balanced representation on the Board committees.
- 1.3 Annual appointments to Board committees are brought to the Board for approval.

2. Situation

Appointments to Board committees for 2025 have been determined and are included as Appendix A to Report No. 003-25.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Lakehead District School Board approve the Trustee Appointments to Board Committees - 2025 as set out in Appendix A to Report No. 003-25.

Respectfully submitted,

SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND
Director of Education

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS ON BOARD COMMITTEES - 2025		Chambers	Johansen	LeBlanc	Oikonen	Saarinen	Sitch	Tuchenhagen	Vanderwey	Wemigwans
1. STATUTORY COMMITTEES										
1.1	Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) (2 Trustees + 2 Alternates)		A	A				X	X	
1.2	Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL) (1 Trustee + 1 Alternate)			X				A		
1.3	Suspension Appeal Hearing/Expulsion Hearing Committee (3 Trustees + 3 Alternates)			X	A	X	A	A		X
1.4	Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) (1 Trustee + 1 Alternate)	X				A				
1.5	Audit Committee (3 Trustees)				X			X		X
2. REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BOARDS AND AGENCIES										
2.1	Ontario Public School Boards Board of Directors Delegate (1 Trustee appointed at Regular Board meeting in June)						X			
2.1	Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Voting Delegate (1 Trustee + 1 Alternate)					A	X			
3. OTHER COMMITTEES										
3.1	Miiniwewinan- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) (2 Trustees (one of which is the Indigenous Trustee) + 2 Alternates)	A	X					A		X
3.2	OPSBA Awards Selection Committee (3 Trustees)	X	X	X						
3.3	Finance Committee (All Trustees)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.4	Communications Committee (All Trustees)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.5	Board Development Committee (3 Trustees)	X	X	X						
3.6	OPSBA Director Liaison Committee (All Trustees)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.7	Student Transportation Services of Thunder Bay Committee (STSTB) (1 Trustee + 1 Alternate)				A	X				
3.8	School Year Calendar Committee (1 Trustee)								X	
3.9	Equity and Inclusive Education Committee (1 Trustee + 1 Alternate)	X	A							
3.10	Lakehead Public Schools International (1 Trustee + 1 Alternate – two-year term) December 2024- December 2026		A					X		
4. ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT ANNUAL/INAUGURAL MEETING										
	Coordinating Committee (Chair, Vice Chair + 1 Elected Trustee + 1 Elected Alternate)									

* A = Alternate, C = Chair, VC = Vice Chair, X = Member

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2024 DEC 3
Report No. 004-25

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Public Session

RE: SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

1. Background

- 1.1 On January 18, 1983, in accordance with Regulation 464/97 of the Education Act, Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) established the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) to make recommendations to LDSB relating to matters affecting the establishment and development of special education programs and services in respect to exceptional students of LDSB.
- 1.2 To qualify as a representative, a person must be:
 - a Canadian citizen;
 - the full age of eighteen years;
 - a resident within the jurisdiction of LDSB; and
 - a public school elector.
- 1.3 A SEAC member cannot be an employee of LDSB.
- 1.4 The term of office for representatives of associations or organizations coincides with the term of the LDSB.
- 1.5 SEAC is required to report annually to LDSB on its activities.

2. Situation

- 2.1 In December 2022, trustees passed a motion to appoint members to SEAC for the period December 2022 - November 2026. During 2023-2024 SEAC included members appointed for the term and included the following:

Name	Association/Organization
Wendy Carroll	Anishnawbe Mushkiki
Brandon Robb (Alternate)	Anishnawbe Mushkiki
Amy Massalin	Children's Centre Thunder Bay
Alina Cameron	Community Member
Sarah Niles	Dilico Anishinabek Family Care
Lesley Harding (Alternate)	Dilico Anishinabek Family Care
Tara Ingram	Easter Seals
Miranda Myers	Fetal Alcohol Support Information Network (FASIN)
Michelle Blackburn	George Jeffrey Children's Centre
Andrea Stach (Alternate)	George Jeffrey Children's Centre
Liz Tod	Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
Carey Murphy (Alternate)	Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario
Suzanne Posthumus	OPTIONS Northwest
Rosemarie MacLean (Alternate)	OPTIONS Northwest
Mike Otway	VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children
Anne Antenucci	Autism Ontario
Trustee Leah Vanderwey	Trustee Member
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen	Trustee Member
Trustee Pat Johansen	Trustee Member (Alternate)
Trustee Donica LeBlanc	Trustee Member (Alternate)

2.2 According to legislation, SEAC meetings occur monthly from September to June during the school year. There are no meetings scheduled during July and August.

2.3 September 2023 - June 2024:

Topic	Presenter(s)
Introduction of Special Education Team	Maggie Fredrickson
Equity Plan	Michelle Probizanski
Operational Plan	Michelle Probizanski
Summer Learning Camps	Maggie Fredrickson
Introduction of Mental Health Team	Megan Semeniuk
Introduction of Special Class Placement Committee	Maggie Fredrickson
Math Achievement Action Plan	A.J. Keene
Review Special Needs Student Enrollment	Maggie Fredrickson
Student Achievement Report	Fred Van Elburg and Meghan Smelow
7040 Violence in the Workplace	Michelle Probizanski
3072 Advocacy Policy	Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Connections Program	Ryan McDonnell
2024-2025 Budget	Kirsti Alaksa and Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk
9030 Playground Structures	Kirsti Alaksa
Pre-work Placement Program	Maggie Fredrickson
Special Class Presentation, Hammarskjold High School	Derek DiBlasio, Lori McOrmond and Kerri LaForrest
Itinerant Hearing Presentation	Janice Sweitzer and Erin Perozak
FASD Adopt for Life	Tracy Moisan
Mental Health	Megan Semeniuk
2024-2025 Special Education Plan	Michelle Probizanski

2.4 Professional Development

Special Education Advisory Committee members are always encouraged to participate in workshops and events specifically geared to SEAC members and their roles. Each agenda included time for members to share information about workshops or events hosted by their associations and to promote upcoming community events. Additionally, members have the opportunity to share resources that may be of interest to SEAC members.

The following are some of the resources, workshops and events shared with SEAC members:

- Ontario Autism Coalition;
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) webinar;
- Consent in Capacity Workshop, Dr. Robert Butcher;
- Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario webinar;
- 2024-2025 LDSB Budget presentation; and
- 2024-2025 SEAC Budget deputation.

2.5 SEAC Participation and Input

Special Education Advisory Committee members were engaged in the process of providing information to the following:

- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE);
- Kindergarten night;
- Grade 8 night;
- letters to the Ministry of Education regarding Transportation and Special Incidence Portion (SIP), and an Urgent Appeal for Improved Funding and Support for Students with Special Education Needs in Northwestern Ontario;
- Health and safety strategies being implemented for violence in the schools;
- Bright Beginnings;
- Parent Event at Superior Collegiate Vocational Institute;
- Partnerships and community collaboration; and
- Parent Involvement Committee and the Equity and Inclusive Education Committee as representatives on the committees.

2.6 Work Plan

Each school year, a SEAC Work Plan is developed outlining objectives, key actions, timelines and intended results. Attached, as Appendix A, is the 2023-2024 SEAC Work Plan.

2.7 Provincial and Lakehead District School Board Involvement

Common issues regarding special education funding are shared with the Board of Trustees, Minister's office, Ontario Public School Boards' Association, and the provincial SEACs.

To communicate the role of SEAC to the schools and our community, the following actions were taken:

- articles from SEAC members associations were forwarded to the schools for their monthly newsletters, and sharing on social media platforms; and
- information posted to the SEAC website.

Information sharing amongst SEAC representatives, and their organizations, was ongoing to keep updated on the support offered in our community for children with special needs and their families and caregivers.

Special Education Advisory Committee members presented a budget deputation to the Lakehead District School Board 2023-2024 budget meeting. Special Education Advisory Committee members participated on committees when required. Tara Ingram represented SEAC on the Parent Involvement Committee and Amy Massalin on the Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Committee until December 2023.

2.8 Special Events

SEAC organized Dr. Chris Mushquash to present "Managing Screen Time" to the community on October 11, 2023. This SEAC event was made possible through funding provided by the Parent Involvement Committee.

2.9 SEAC Input

On a regular basis, at SEAC meetings, input is requested of members on various topics. During the 2023-2024 school year, input was requested and provided by SEAC on the following:

- 2024-2025 Budget Presentation;
- 2024-2025 Special Education Plan;
- 2024 Review of Special Education Services;
- 9030 Playground Structure Policy;
- 3072 Advocacy Policy; and
- 7040 Violence in the Workplace Policy.

3. Areas of Focus

The Special Education Advisory Committee will continue to:

- increase awareness of SEAC and understanding of schools and special education programs and services;
- advocate for students with special needs;
- improve parent and guardian knowledge of special education and SEAC;
- engage parents;
- ensure SEAC materials are current; and
- provide input to LDSB, organizations, agencies and committees as requested.

4. Recognition

Special Education Advisory Committee provided the SEAC Leadership Scholarship to all three LDSB secondary schools for a third year. The recipients of the SEAC Scholarships for 2023-2024 were as follows:

- Daniel Rozenburg, Hammarskjold High School;
- Mattea Hakanen, Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute; and
- Chloe Chambers, Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

Special Education Advisory Committee provided a new SEAC Award to be granted to all three secondary schools annually. This award is to be presented to a student with an intellectual exceptionality who is receiving a certificate or diploma. The recipients of the SEAC Awards for 2023-2024 were as follows:

- Ethan Cameron, Hammarskjold High School;
- Anita Kelly, Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute; and
- Amber Fenton, Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute.

5. Conclusion

Special Education Advisory Committee makes recommendations to LDSB relating to matters affecting the establishment and development of special education programs and services in respect to exceptional students of LDSB.

Special Education Advisory Committee of LDSB is a well-established committee that represents important organizations in our community.

Special Education Advisory Committee acknowledges Lakehead District School Board for putting students first. The promotion of student success by meeting the unique needs of all learners ensures that each individual can achieve success.

The Special Education Advisory Committee members are to be commended for the time and commitment they have given to the activities of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

ALINA CAMERON
Vice Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

SUZANNE POSTHUMUS
Chair, Special Education Advisory Committee

SEAC Work Plan 2023-2024

Goal 1	Increase SEAC Awareness and Understanding of Schools and Special Education Programs and Services		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite two schools to present information on how they support students and provide a tour of facility. • Hold SEAC meetings at schools that present 		
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAC members increase knowledge and understanding of services offered within the school community 		
Timeline	June 2023 and ongoing	Responsible	Chair, Vice Chair, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
Record of Progress The following tours and presentations were provided: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Special Education Team Introductions – September 2023 2. Social Workers Introductions – October 2023 3. Special Education Placement Procedure – October 2023 4. Welcome to Kindergarten Night – January 2024 5. Connections Program – February 2024 6. Budget Presentation 24-25 – March 2024 7. Pre-Work Placement Presentation – March 2024 8. Hammaraskjold High School – March 2024 9. Hearing Itinerant Teacher – April 2024 10. Section 23 Classrooms update 11. Kindergarten Classrooms update 			

SEAC Work Plan 2023-2024

Goal 2	Advocate for Students with Special Needs		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to current opportunities to advocate for students and families (i.e. transition committees, other initiatives) Advocate for students and families through the SEAC Advocacy Program Review and provide input into LDSB policies and corresponding procedures which are relevant to SEAC from September 2023 to June 2024 as outlined in the “Order of Policies for Development and Review” Invite policy review leads to attend and present policies and procedures at SEAC meetings 		
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAC members have access to a platform which allows them to provide input into LDSB policies and procedures 		
Timeline	June 2023 and ongoing	Responsible	All SEAC Members
Record of Progress			
The following policies were to be presented:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3072 Advocacy, December 2023 7040 Violence in the Workplace, December 2023 9030 Playground structures, March 2023. 			
The following visit took place:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clayton La Touche, Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, visited LDSB Special Education classrooms. 			
The following letters were sent on behalf of Students with Special Needs:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> letter to the Ministry of Education regarding Transportation / SIP; and letter to the Minister of Education regarding Urgent Appeal for Improved Funding and Support for Students with Special Education Needs in Northwestern Ontario. 			
Advocacy Program Support provided below:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tara Ingram provided support to a LDSB family (November 2023-January 2024); Alina Cameron, informal support on who to speak on next step at board for student with Special Needs (January 2024); and Liz Tod, support on appropriate accommodations and how to request within the school board (January 2024). 			
Additions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> creation of a new SEAC award for each secondary school for a student with special needs. 			

SEAC Work Plan 2023-2024

Goal 3	Improve Parent / Guardian Knowledge of Special Education and SEAC, and Engage Parents in Supporting Their Child / Children
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Parent Involvement Committee and School Council Chairs to arrange presentation(s) about SEAC • Inform Parents / Guardians of Current Board Initiative • In collaboration with PIC, host a joint parent / community engagement event in 2023-2024 • Finalize video(s) related to student supports and accommodations • Include SEAC meeting dates under “Upcoming Events” on the main page of Lakehead Public Schools’ website • Send SEAC information out to community organizations (i.e. role, meeting dates)
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback through event evaluation, presenter, and SEAC Members • Participation level in SEAC events • Complete the development of videos and post to the Board website • Broader distribution of SEAC information within the community
Timeline	<div>June 2023 and Ongoing</div> <div>Responsible</div> <div>All SEAC Members, Superintendent, Executive Secretary</div>
Record of Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All SEAC Agendas and Minutes are posted on the LDSB website; • Meetings are listed under “Upcoming Events” on the mail page; • Dr. Mushquash presented Managing Screen Time at Superior Collegiate Vocational Institute; • Introduction to Special Class Placement process; • 23-24 Math Achievement Action Plan; • Connections Program; and • SEAC information booth at Welcome to Kindergarten Night and Grade 8 Open Houses. 	

SEAC Work Plan 2023-2024

Goal 4	Ensure SEAC and Materials are Current		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review and update binders on an annual basis (as needed)Review and update advocacy memo; share with schools, community partners and post on the Board websiteMaintain SEAC advocacy information, and other materials, which can be shared with students, parents/guardians/caregivers and schools.		
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SEAC materials are current and available for easy access		
Timeline	Ongoing	Responsible	All SEAC Members, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
Record of Progress			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">All members provided update material for their 2022-2026 SEAC binder;2023-2024 Advocacy material reviewed and shared;All schools received Advocacy memo to send home for parents;Advocacy memo posted to board website; and2023-24 Scholarships & Awards.			

SEAC Work Plan 2023-2024

Goal 5	Provide Input to the Board, organizations, agencies and committees as requested.		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage with other bodies to support special needs students		
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Requests for SEAC engagement have been addressed.		
Timeline	Ongoing	Responsible	All SEAC Members, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
Record of Progress			
Board provided the following presentations:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">2023-2024 Math Achievement Action Plan presentation;ONSIS Data Presentation;2023-2024 Preliminary Operational Plan;Mental Health Team introduced;FASD Presentation; and2024-2025 Budget Deputation.			

LAKEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

2024 DEC 03
Report No. 005-25

TO THE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF
LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD – Public Session

RE: MIINIWEWINAN: INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

1. Background

- 1.1 On June 22, 2004, the 8061 Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee policy was approved by Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) authorizing the establishment of a committee to make recommendations to the Board on matters relating to the education of Indigenous students. The policy was reviewed and updated during the 2020-2021 school year.
- 1.2 In the 2023-2024 school year, trustees approved the name Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee for the committee. Translated from Anishinaabemowin, Miiniwewinan represents people from the community bringing, sharing, and giving their gifts to this work and contributing to LDSB to support students.
- 1.3 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee is required to report to the Board on its activities. Minutes of meetings are included in Board agendas.

2. Situation

- 2.1 The co-chairs for the 2023-2024 school year were Serena Essex and Heather Harris.
- 2.2 The cultural spirit and Indigenous world view of this unique committee is reflected in the integration of Indigenous protocols such as opening and closing words by an Indigenous Elder or Knowledge Carrier, land acknowledgements at every meeting, and a commitment to working together to consensus.
- 2.3 Miiniwewinan held six hybrid meetings during the 2023-2024 school year.

2.4 Membership of Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee included the following individuals from September 2023 to June 2024:

NAME	AFFILIATION
MEMBERS:	
ANDREWS, Kathleen	Secondary Vice Principal
BEARDY, Kathy	Community/Agency
BOUCHER, Kristy	Parent/Guardian
CH'NG, Shelby	Community/Agency
CROMARTY, Elliot	Community/Agency
DRAKE, Emily	Indigenous Student Trustee
ESSEX, Serena	Co-Chair
HARRIS, Heather	Co-Chair
JOHANSEN, Pat	Trustee
KAKEGAMIC, Anna Fern	Community/Agency
KANUTSKI, Sharon	Parent/Guardian
LESPERANCE, Miranda	Parent/Guardian
MARSHALL, Leanna	Parent/Guardian
MARTIN, Gerry	Elder
PARRES, Brett	Community/Agency
TASSONE, Angelina	Elementary Principal
TOM, Morning Star	Parent/Guardian
WABOOSE, Leland	Student Representative
WEMIGWANS, Scottie	Indigenous Trustee
WORKMAN, Neil	Secondary Vice Principal
ALTERNATES:	
BANNON, Myra	Community/Agency
BOUCHER, Sherri	Community/Agency
CHAMBERS, Ellen	Trustee
JUNG, Dinah	ETFO Representative
TUCHENHAGEN, Trudy	Trustee
RESOURCES:	
BERNST, Kali	Principal of Indigenous Education & Program
GUTHRIE, Anika	Anishnaabemowin Revitalization Coordinator
JEETHAN, Anthony	Human Rights & Equity Advisor
LOWER, Jane	Superintendent of Education
MOSES, Tanya	FNMI Partnership Coordinator
PADDINGTON, Dave	ETFO President
PHARAND, Sherri-Lynne	Director of Education
RYDHOLM, Charity	Executive Secretary
SGAMBELLURI, Jasmine	FNMI Education Resource Teacher
SMELOW, Meghan	Student Success Lead

- 2.5 The chair is elected annually at the December meeting.
- 2.6 Board staff regularly present to and seek guidance and feedback from the committee about a variety of events and topics. Some highlights from this year include:
- Tikanagan Teachings in Kindergarten classes;
 - Mashkiki Mikinaak: Seasonal Celebrations and Commemorations;
 - Board Action Plan for Indigenous Education;
 - Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Project;
 - summer learning programs and reach ahead credits;
 - Jordan's Principle;
 - Mino Bimaadiziwin; and
 - community commemorations and events.
- 2.7 Miiniwewinan was invited to provide input into the development of the LDSB's strategic plan and how it connects to the Indigenous Education Framework that was developed as part of the current strategic plan.
- 2.8 Miiniwewinan also provided input to LDSB's 2024-2025 budget. The committee would like to thank trustees for their ongoing support of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) priorities at LDSB which is evident through funding for staff positions including, but not limited to, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program, FNMI Partnerships Coordinator, two FNMI Education Resource Teachers, and the addition of an Elementary Indigenous Student Well-Being and Engagement Coordinator.
- 2.9 Native Language and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies courses continue to be a priority for the committee. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies courses are offered at all three secondary schools. Secondary Ojibwe language courses are available at all three secondary schools. Elementary Ojibwe language programs continued at Armstrong Public School, Algonquin Avenue Public School, McKellar Park Central Public School, Ogden Community Public School, Sherbrooke Public School, and St. James Public School.
- 2.10 Miiniwewinan continues to be instrumental in guiding and supporting initiatives in FNMI education such as cultural awareness through professional development, cultural programming, Indigenous role models, supports for students from remote communities, welcoming school environments, and increasing FNMI presence in our schools.
- 2.11 Staff continues to promote and utilize the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit *Presence in Our Schools* booklet. Printed copies continue to be provided to all schools and educators as requested. It is also available online.

2.12 Community Involvement

- 2.12.1 The ongoing community relationships and success for students comes through working alongside community committees including Indigenous Youth Achievement and Recognition Awards (IYARA) and Community Coalition Unified for the Protection of Children and Youth (CCUPCY) who initiate annual events such as Fall Harvest (every September). The National Indigenous Peoples Day committee organizes and participates in an Education Day component, to celebrate FNMI culture annually on June 21.
- 2.12.2 Collaboration with Matawa Education Partnership Program, Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Education Partnership Program and individual First Nations Communities' Education support staff offer LDSB the opportunity to hear the collective and individual voices of Reciprocal Education Service Agreements and offers opportunities to work collaboratively with communities and band councils regarding the transition of students into Thunder Bay and Lakehead Public Schools.
- 2.12.3 Collaboration with the following community partners continued: Fort William First Nation, Whitesand First Nation, Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek (Gull Bay), NAN Education Partnership Program, Matawa Learning Centre, Confederation College, Lakehead University, Nokiwin Tribal Council, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, Shkoday Abinojiiwak Objmewedoon, Roots Community Food Centre, Thunder Bay Police Services, Thunder Bay Art Gallery and Fort William Historical Park for curriculum collaboration.

2.13 Board Involvement

- 2.13.1 Representatives of Miiniwewinan are invited to sit on various LDSB committees including the Parent Involvement Committee and Calendar Committee.
- 2.13.2 Elementary, secondary, and program resource staff regularly attend meetings as a resource to the committee to provide information and receive input from the committee on various initiatives.
- 2.13.3 The FNMI education resource teachers act as resources to Miiniwewinan. This role provided support for elementary and secondary teachers, support for FNMI studies courses and Native Language teachers and FNMI student support workers.

- 2.13.4 The position of the FNMI Partnerships Coordinator supports the implementation of LDSB initiatives and activities in FNMI education. This role focuses on nurturing relationships and creating partnerships between community/First Nations and the LDSB/schools (K-12) that support student learning related to FNMI education and Indigenous student success. The FNMI Partnerships Coordinator reports regularly to the committee.

Visits to First Nation communities have also helped to strengthen relationships and provide additional opportunities for increased understandings and sharing knowledge and resources.

Members of the FNMI education team participated in planning the Welcome to Kindergarten event, helping to ensure it was welcoming and accessible for all families.

3. Conclusion

Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee members are to be commended for the time and commitment they have given to the activities of the committee. The committee will continue to act in an advisory role to fulfill its mandate as outlined in 8061 Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee procedures. The committee extends its thanks to LDSB for its support of the committee and commitment to Indigenous education.

Miigwech.

Respectfully submitted,

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SHERRI-LYNNE PHARAND

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