

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2024 SEP 18
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair (virtual)	Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Liz Tod	Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Michelle Blackburn	Tara Ingram
Sarah Niles	Wendy Carroll (virtual)
Scott McBean (virtual)	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski	Maggie Fredrickson
Christine Jones	

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Mike Otway	Miranda Myers
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen	

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

There were no introductions.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Sarah Niles

"THAT the agenda for the September 18, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved."

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. **Presentations**

There were no presentations.

6. **Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Sarah Niles

"THAT the minutes of the June 12, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved."

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 7.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, discussed the SEAC Parent Event, presenting Kate Swenson that is being held on November 20, 2024, at Superior Collegiate Vocational Institute. Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education confirmed there will be childcare available and committee agreed to having a no virtual option to increase attendance. The SEAC meeting scheduled for November 20, 2024, will be rescheduled for November 13, 2024. Christine Jones, Executive Assistant, will work with Autism Ontario to create a poster for advertising.
- 7.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared the 2023-2024 Final SEAC Workplan for committee input. This final version will be included in the 2023-2024 SEAC Annual Board report.
- 7.3 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, asked committee members if they would be interested in attending the Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Committee for the 2024-2025 school year. No volunteer at this time.
- 7.4 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, shared that Tara Ingram, Committee Member, will be representing the 2024-2025 Parent Involvement Committee. The 2023-2024 funding will carry-over into 2024-2025.
- 7.5 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, discussed with the SEAC Advocates; Alina Cameron, Sarah Niles, Tara Ingram, Miranda Myers, about changing their title to SEAC Navigator. Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, will poll some parents and bring forward to next month's meeting along with some suggested titles to assist parents/guardians to better describe their role as SEAC advocates.
- 7.6 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that the map for parents to navigate SEAC supports should be completed soon and will bring to the committee for their input.

8. Correspondence

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

- EarlyON September, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care.

9. New Business

- 9.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, provided the following special education update:
- 2024-2025 Central Special Education Team;
 - 2024-2025 Special Education Classes;
 - 2024 Summer Learning Program;
 - 2024-2025sSchool start up successes, challenges, entry to school program and transportation; and
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- 2024-2025 Planning which includes kindergarten education training, continued empower program, universal design for learning, targeted autism training, exploring AI to support special education, and continued professional learning in literacy and mathematics to support all learners.

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that two Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP) programs funding were approved in January 2024. In August 2024, the board was informed that this funding was only for one-year. A meeting was held with the Ministry of Education to advocate the importance of high needs, unfortunately, it was confirmed that this funding was for one year.

- 9.2 Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, updated the committee on the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) she attended on September 9, 2024. Their next meeting will be held on November 18, 2024.
- 9.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reviewed the thank you letters included in the agenda package from the 2023-2024 SEAC Scholarship and SEAC Awards.

10. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

- 10.1 Liz Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, expressed her concerns on the regulations for student with special needs using their devices in the classroom. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, will follow up with principals to gauge if the accommodations for students with special education needs are happening.
- 10.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that there are update pages for committee members. Electronic versions are available, please email Christine Jones, Executive Assistant.
- 10.3 Michelle Blackburn, George Jefferey Children's Centre, shared that they will be hosting their mobility devices Halloween costume event on October 19, 2024. Preregistration is required.
- 10.4 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the policies and procedures for 2024-2025 that are scheduled to be reviewed. The following policies were asked to be presented:
 - 6065 Prevalent Medical Conditions-October;
 - 8015 Display of Flags-October;
 - 7080 Health and Safety-December or January; and
 - 3005 Ontario Student Record-February or March.

- 10.5 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, asked for a mover for the updated 2024-2025 SEAC meeting schedule. Changes were made to accommodate the SEAC event at Superior Collegiate Vocational Institute on November 20, 2024 and moved the SEAC meeting to November 13, 2024.

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Sarah Niles

“THAT the revised 2024-2025 SEAC Meeting schedule be approved.”

- 10.6 Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, provided an update on the Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC).

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported there was no change to the SEAC budget of \$11,265.

12. Board Update

Trustee Vanderwey, provided the following May 28, 2024, board update;

- Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Report;
- 2023-2024 Supervised Alternative Learning Committee;
- Director Performance Appraisal Ad HOC Committee; and
- 3094 Electronic Meeting Policy.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:30 p.m.”