

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2024 OCT 16
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair (virtual)	Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Liz Tod	Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Andrea Stach (virtual)	Tara Ingram
Sarah Niles	Wendy Carroll (virtual)
Scott McBean (virtual)	Anne Antenucci
Morgann De Franceschi	Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen
Trustee Pat Johansen (virtual)	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski	Maggie Fredrickson
Christine Jones	

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Mike Otway	Miranda Myers
Michelle Blackburn	

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed the following new SEAC member:

- Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Sarah Niles

Seconded by Trustee Vanderwey

"THAT the agenda for the October 16, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved."

4. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. **Presentations**

- 5.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, presented an Introduction of Special Class Placement Committee. All questions were addressed.

- 5.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the 2024-2025 Mental Health Team. All questions were addressed.
- 5.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the 6065 Prevalent Medical Conditions Policy. Input is welcome before October 23, 2024. All questions were addressed.
- 5.4 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the 8015 Display of Flags Policy. Input is welcome before October 23, 2024. All questions were addressed.
- 5.5 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the 2024-2025 Director's Board Priorities Implementation Plan that focuses on the following:
- Attendance;
 - Student Achievement;
 - Leadership; and
 - Culture.

Percentages on Student Achievement goals will be shared at next meeting. All questions were addressed.

6. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Tara Ingram

"THAT the minutes of the September 18, 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. This event will be live streamed and therefore no childcare is needed. Christine Jones, Executive Assistant, is working with Autism Northwest to create a poster and will share with committee once completed. The event has expanded to other school boards.
- 7.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, shared with the committee that Sarah Niles, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, has offered to represent SEAC at the Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Committee for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 7.3 Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, had difficulties with her internet and therefore deferred poll information from parents to next month's meeting along with some suggested titles to assist parents/guardians to better describe their role as SEAC advocates.
- 7.4 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared that the map for parents to navigate SEAC is being completed and will be shared in the near future.

8. Correspondence

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

- EarlyON October, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care; and
- 2024-2025 Policy Review link, LDSB.

9. New Business

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

- shared the provincial average of students diagnosed with Autism;
- a new transition class at Sherbrook Public School, called RISE for junior and senior kindergarten students;
- a partnership with Jordan's Principle has provided a new language program at Ogden Community Public School for kindergarten to grade two students; and
- special education staff is visiting Armstrong Public School;
- Student Support Professionals receive Behaviour Management Systems training upon hiring and are recertified annually. This training will be provided to administrators.

9.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared the success of LDSB Pediatric Clinic.

All members questions were addressed.

10. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

10.1 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, shared that Mike Otway, representative for VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children has stepped down from SEAC.

10.2 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, shared that LDSB is holding a Strategic Stakeholders Planning Development meeting on October 28, 2024 and asked if anyone was available to attend. Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, volunteered to attend on behalf of SEAC.

10.3 Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, shared the following:

- April 2025 is Celebrate Autism Awareness;
- advocacy for tool kits to assist parents when navigating IPRC and IEP and can be found on their website;
- care giver coffee chats for parents/caregiver/guardians of children diagnosed with Autism, first Monday of every month, Carlito's Coffee shop on Simpson St, Thunder Bay, ON.

10.4 Lid Tod, Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, has asked that the write to read recommendations, be added to the presentation schedule. Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, confirmed it will be shared at next month SEAC meeting.

11. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported there was no change to the SEAC budget of \$13,348.

12. Board Update

Trustee Tuchenhausen deferred the Board update to next meeting.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Tara Ingram

“THAT we do now adjourn at 8:03 p.m.”