

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

DEC 18, 2024
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Scott McBean
Sarah Niles
Tara Ingram
Anne Antenucci

Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Trustee Pat Johansen
Michelle Blackburn
Brandon Robb
Liz Tod

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Christine Jones

Maggie Fredrickson
Simona Serrao

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Miranda Myers
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen

Wendy Carroll

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, provided the Land Acknowledgement.

3. **Welcome & Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed the following guest:

- Kyle Ulvang, Health and Safety Officer.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Leah Vanderwey

Seconded by Alina Cameron, Vice Chair

"THAT the agenda of December 18, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved."

5. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6. Presentations

6.1 Kyle Ulvang, Health and Safety Officer presented 7080 Health & Safety Policy. All questions were addressed.

6.2 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, presented Right to Read. Presentation will be shared with members after the meeting. All questions were addressed.

- Suggestion was put forward to submit a letter of advocacy to the Ministry in April 2025 to increase funding amount for the Right to Read Program.
- Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, to invite Kali Bernst, Principal of Indigenous Education and Program, to the next SEAC meeting to present the assessment dashboard.
- Assessment dashboard report will be provided at the January 2025 SEAC meeting by Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal.

7. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Scott McBean

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

“THAT the minutes of November 13, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved.”

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

8.1 *“THAT the agenda of November 13, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved.”*

Moved by Scott McBean

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

8.2 *“THAT the minutes of October 16, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved.”*

Moved by Trustee Leah Vanderwey

Seconded by Sarah Niles

8.3 Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, provided an update and context on keeping the title of SEAC Advocates status quo vs the change to SEAC Navigator. Committee will decide and inform SEAC members.

8.4 SEAC Speaker event was widely attended. Meeting recording will be available to members who could not attend. Members appreciated the value and success of the speaker event.

8.5 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the update of Armstrong Public School social worker providing counselling services with continuity from elementary to secondary.

9. Correspondence

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

- December at Abiinojiishiik amino yawook, EarlyON; and
- 2024 Director's Annual Report, LDSB; and
- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE), LDSB.

10. New Business

- 10.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, provided the following special education update:
- Kindergarten information has been scheduled for Monday, January 13th at École Elsie MacGill Public School. Committee members interested in joining the Kindergarten Information event, to sit at the special education table can inform Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal.
 - There was in-depth exploration of the data of autistic children who are part of Lakehead Public Schools District School Board. The data analysis reflected that a large number of children fall into the range of needing medium to high support. This data analysis was presented to Senior Team and Director Pharand.

- 10.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the review of scholarship and classroom funding and put forward a motion:

"THAT the Special Education Classroom Funding of \$300 per elementary class and \$ 600 per secondary class be approved for this year to fund programming and resources."

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Trustee Leah Vanderwey

Review and discussion of Special Education additional funding to be added as standing item for SEAC meetings going forward.

11. Information/Inquiries & Association Report

- 11.1 Committee members approved providing a gift of "Finding Coopers" book to Mike Otway, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, for his years of dedication to SEAC.
- 11.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the committee of the addition of Quest program for students who are at risk of being involved with the law. Potentially 4 students have been enrolled to start in January 2025.
- 11.3 ECPP conference was attended by Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education and Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal.
- 11.4 Anne Antenucci provided an update on Autism Ontario. Autism Ontario brochure will be shared with the committee.
- 11.5 Alina Cameron provided an update that 4 families reached out to her as part of the Advocacy Committee.

11.6 Alina Cameron provided an Ontario Coalition update.

11.7 Liz Tod expressed the success of the RISE program and how additional funding could be found to increase the overall funding for the program.

12. SEAC Budget Update

- Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the SEAC budget actual as \$ 9,917.
- Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, put forward a motion:
“THAT the scholarship amount of \$ 1200 be approved for this year, same as last year.”

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Alina Cameron

- Maggie Fredrickson, Special Education Principal, put forward a motion:
“THAT the amount of \$ 450 for purchasing multiple copies of the book “Finding Coopers Voice” at the SEAC Speaker event be approved.”

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Alina Cameron

13. Board Update

Trustee Leah Vanderwey presented the following Board update:

- Transportation letter to the Ministry was approved by Board of Trustees at the December 17th, 2024, Board meeting.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT we do now adjourn at 8:25 p.m.”