

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Westmount Public School

JAN 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Scott McBean
Sarah Niles
Liz Tod
Anne Antenucci

Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen
Michelle Blackburn
Wendy Carroll
Miranda Myers

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Simona Serrao

Sherri-Lynne Pharand
Karen Armstrong (Public Attendee)

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Tara Ingram

Maggie Fredrickson

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 guests:

- Leesa McCarville, Principal, Westmount Public School;
- Inga Anderson-Foster, Vice Principal, Westmount Public School;
- Lisa Sgambelluri, Special Education Teacher, Westmount Public School;
- Alicia Yeomans, Special Education Teacher, Westmount Public School;
- Madison Pritoula, Special Education Teacher, Westmount Public School; and
- Marcades Strickland, SSP, Westmount Public School.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Sarah Niles

“THAT the agenda of January 15, 2025, SEAC meeting be approved.”

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6. Presentations

- 6.1 The work being conducted in the Special Education Class was presented followed by tour Incl SSP at Westmount. SEAC members were appreciative of the program.

7. Approval of the Minutes

Moved by Sarah Niles

Seconded by Scott McBean

“THAT the minutes of December 18, 2024, SEAC meeting be approved.”

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 8.1 In follow-up to the request made by SEAC at the last meeting, Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the group that the request of flag raising for Autism Awareness at Lakehead Public Schools on April 2nd, 2025, was sent to Sr. Team and there was agreement in carrying this out at all the Lakehead Public Schools. Anne Antenucci put forth the suggestion of having an activity for it, with photo opportunity with the SEAC Chair & Vice Chair. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, will bring additional details for this to the next meeting.

- 8.2 Copy of the flow chart for parents of students with diverse needs information for kindergarten registration will be shared with the committee members. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed the group that the kindergarten information session and registration event had a good turn out and was a success.

9. Correspondence

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

- Right to Read presentation;
- FASD Support Group for Parents & Caregivers; and
- January 2025: Autism Ontario correspondence

10. New Business

10.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the following special education update:

- Sensory Friendly Hockey Game is being organized by Thunder Bay North Stars on January 22, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Fort William Gardens for students with special needs. Invites are priced at \$ 5 per student.
- Algonquin Avenue Public School was the recipient of three large communication signs that were donated. The Augmentative and Alternative communication (AAC) devices will help many of the students communicate in different environments and locations around the school. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, put forth the recommendation of having one of the SEAC meetings at this school for members to have an opportunity to see the signs. Link to the website from where these signs were purchased will be shared with SEAC.
- M. Probizanski will bring empower program and services data to the next SEAC meeting to receive recommendations for the budget.

10.2 Copy of the draft letter to the Ministry of Education by SEAC Ottawa Catholic District School Board, with endorsement from all SEAC Chairs in Ontario will be shared for feedback.

11. Work Plan:

SEAC Work Plan for 2024 – 2025 was reviewed and the suggested changes will be incorporated in the SEAC Work Plan document.

12. Information/Inquiries & Association Report

- Anne Antenucci provided an update on the March break event with Autism Ontario.
- Alina Cameron informed the group that the OAC Special Education report will be shared the following week by email.

13. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the SEAC budget actual as \$ 9,800.

14. Board Update

Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen presented the following Board update:

- Kingsway Park Public School Choir performed a song recital at the Board Advisory Committee.
- Information reports on the Arts and terms and conditions of the Miiniwewinan: Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) were reviewed.

Trustee Vanderwey presented the following Board update:

- Trustee Vanderwey was given the opportunity to present a three-minute testimony for the Ontario budget. The two main areas that were advocated for were transportation and special education funding.
- The Board of Trustees have agreed to submit a letter once again to the Ministry of Education by February 3rd, 2025, requesting for increased funding in transportation and special education funding.

15. Adjournment

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:36 p.m.”