

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

McKellar Park Central Public School

April 16, 2025
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Brandon Robb
Trustee Pat Johansen
Liz Tod

Anne Antenucci
Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Tara Ingram

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Simona Serrao
Lorrie Peltola

Maggie Fredrickson
Mark Moorhouse
Brian Hyytiainen

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Scott McBean
Wendy Carroll
Miranda Myers

Sarah Niles
Michelle Blackburn
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, provided the land acknowledgement.

3. **Welcome & Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, welcomed the following guests:

- Mark Moorhouse, Principal, McKellar Park Central Public School;
- Lorrie Peltola, Supervisor of Day Treatment, McKellar Park Central Public School; and
- Brian Hyytiainen, Teacher, Learning Support Resource, LDSB

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Leah Vanderwey

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the agenda of April 16, 2025, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

6. Presentations

6.1 Special Education Class Presentation & Tour, McKellar Park Central Public School: Day Treatment Program:

Mark Moorhouse, Principal, McKellar Park Central Public School and Lorrie Peltola, Supervisor of Day Treatment, McKellar Park Central Public School presented on the day treatment program. All questions were addressed.

6.2 Empower Data 2023-2024 – Elementary & Secondary:

Brian Hyytiainen, Teacher, Learning Support Resource, LDSB presented on the empower data 2023-2024 for elementary and secondary schools. All questions were addressed.

7. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Leah Vanderwey

Seconded by Liz Tod

“THAT the minutes of March 19, 2025, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

9. Correspondence

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

- Ontario Autism Coalition - March 2025 correspondence;
- Media advisory: ETFO report on special education funding gaps; and
- Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO), open letter to SEACs across Ontario - March 2025.

10. New Business

10.1 Presentation of thank you card by special education students for SEAC funds:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, presented the thank you card made by students of Westmount Public School, special education class for the SEAC funds that were provided.

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

- Language and speech update was provided, and a presentation to follow at a later date;
- Acadience data session for school administrators has been scheduled.
- Enrollment for special needs classes for the 2025-2026 academic year is nearing capacity.;
- Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education attends central IPRC meetings whenever central placement changes are being made. This ensures that all decisions regarding student placements are thoroughly reviewed and appropriately managed; and
- Requests for staffing allocations were received for consideration in the 2025-2026 budget. Efforts were made to optimize existing resources to ensure support for students in need.

11. Information/Inquiries & Association Report

- Tara Ingram representing Easter Seals provided their organizational update: May 25 -31, 2025 is National Accessibility Week, promoting inclusion and accessibility. May 28, 2025, is Red Shirt Day in support of people with disabilities and their families.

12. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, reported the SEAC budget actual as \$ 8,910.

13. Board Update

Trustee Johansen presented the following Board update:

- The autism awareness flag was raised at the LDSB Board Office in recognition of “World Autism Awareness Day”; and
- SEAC Budget Deputation letter and presentation was received at the Finance Committee meeting, April 7, 2025, for consideration in the 2025-2026 budget.

14. Adjournment

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:43 p.m.”