

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025, MAY 21
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen
Wendy Carroll

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maggie Fredrickson
Simona Serrao

Anthony Jeethan
Megan Semeniuk

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Michelle Blackburn
Miranda Myers

Michelle Probizanski
Tara Ingram

1. **Call to Order**

Alina Cameron , Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Alina Cameron , Vice Chair, acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

3. **Welcome & Introductions**

Alina Cameron , Vice Chair, welcomed the following guests:

- Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead; and
- Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights & Equity Advisor

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“THAT the agenda for the SEAC Meeting May 21, 2025, be approved with the following amendments:

- *That the Vice Chair, Alina Cameron shall chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair, Suzanne Posthumus; and*
- *That the Principal of Special Education , Maggie Fredrickson, in the absence of the Superintendent of Education, Michelle Probizanski, shall speak to item 10.1: SEAC Scholarships and SEAC Awards 2024–2025, and item 12: SEAC Budget Update.”*

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

6. Presentations

6.1 Mental Health Plan:

Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, presented on Lakehead District School Board (LDSB), Mental Health Plan. All members' questions were addressed.

6.2 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan:

Anthony Jeethan, Human Rights & Equity Advisor presented the LDSB Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2025-2029. All members' questions were addressed.

7. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhausen

Seconded by Sarah Niles

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

CARRIED

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

9. Correspondence

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, reviewed the following correspondence sent to all SEAC members:

- Ontario Autism Program (OAP): family engagement, May 6 to 8, 2025;

- email: Curriculum Branch, Ministry of Education re LDSB SEAC right to read advocacy letter; and
- Lakehead District School Board - Parent Council event: Parenting in the digital age by Jake Ernst, MSW RSW, May 14, 2025, Hammarskjold High School.

10. New Business

10.1 SEAC Scholarships and SEAC Awards 2024 – 2025:

:

Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, provided an overview and highlights of the students receiving the 2024-2025 SEAC Leadership Scholarships and SEAC Awards. Detailed write ups of the students receiving the scholarships and awards were distributed as part of the meeting package.

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

- the SSP conference took place May 2, 2025. Gift cards of \$ 25 were purchased with the amount of \$ 500 that was contributed by SEAC from the SEAC budget for this event. Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, shared some of the highlights and successes of the conference;
- information on summer learning programs is planned to go out to parents and communities, on Thursday, May 22, 2025;
- Lakehead District School Board has organized a literacy conference for educators, for August 22, 2025. Dr. Shelley Moore has been appointed as the keynote speaker for this conference; and
- the Regional Special Education Committee (RSEC), consisting of superintendents and special education principals, met recently. The meeting featured several presentations, providing a valuable opportunity for learning and sharing. Feedback from this committee is subsequently shared with the Ministry of Education.

All members' questions with regards to the special education update were addressed.

11. Information/Inquiries & Association Report

- Anne Antenucci provided the Autism Ontario update;
- Alina Cameron, Vice Chair/SEAC Community Member, provided the Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) update;
- Alina Cameron, Vice Chair/Community Member, inquired from an advocacy standpoint about the availability of a publicly accessible document, such as a checklist, detailing the process, flow, and responsibilities for students needing accommodations. In response, Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, informed that the updated parent guide for IPRC (Identification, Placement, and Review Committee) and IEP (Individual Education Plan) will soon be posted on the Board's website; and

- Liz Tod of Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) inquired to know if a board policy exists for Student Support Professionals (SSP) to report on a child's daily progress. Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education responded that while there isn't a policy for it, parents may request for regular communication, which can be provided collaboratively by the SSP and the educator, if needed.

12. SEAC Budget Update

Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, reported the SEAC budget actual as \$ 8,910.

13. Board Update

Trustee Vanderwey presented the following Board update from the April 22, 2025, Regular Board meeting:

- student achievement celebrations took place;
- the 2025-2029 Multi-Year Strategic Plan was approved, which is also available on the LDSB website, link as follows: [Strategic Plan 2025-2029 - Lakehead District School Board](#);
- the Trustee Code of Conduct document was updated to meet provincial standard, and the changes were approved; and
- new student trustees were appointed for the 2025-2026 school year.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhausen

Seconded by Scott McBean

"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:45 p.m."