

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 OCT 15  
6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair  
Sarah Niles  
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen  
Liz Tod  
Branden Robb (virtual)

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair (virtual)  
Trustee Leah Vanderwey  
Tara Ingram  
Patricia Johansen (virtual)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michelle Probizanski  
Christine Jones

Megan Van Kannel  
Kathryn Bates

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:**

Maggie Fredrickson  
Simona Serrao  
Miranda Myers  
Wendy Carroll

Michelle Blackburn  
Scott McBean  
Anne Antenucci

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

3. **Welcome & Introductions**

There were none.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Sarah Niles

Seconded by Trustee Leah Vanderwey

*"THAT the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, October 15, 2025, be approved."*

**CARRIED**

5. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were none.

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6. Delegations

There were none.

7. Presentations

Megan Van Kannel, Speech & Language Pathologist and Kathryn Bates, Communicative Disorders Assistant, provided the committee with a presentation on Lakehead District School Board's Language Program. All members' questions were addressed.

8. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Leah Vanderwey

Seconded by Sarah Niles

*"THAT the minutes of September 17, 2025, SEAC meeting be approved."*

**CARRIED**

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

10. Correspondence

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair reviewed the SEAC correspondence that was distributed during the month of September 2025.

11. New Business

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

- facilitators were trained in the WIAT IV;
- teachers, student support professional and facilitators who have students with vision impairment, received professional development on cortical vision impairments;
- the needs continue to increase for students with special needs - supports that unfortunately do not match the funding received by the board;
- our focus continues to be on junior kindergarten to grade 3, and there may be a need for another special needs classroom. We currently have (2) at Westmount Public School, (1) at Algonquin Avenue Public School with an additional (1) multi-needs classroom, (1) Vance Chapman Public School, (1) at Hammarskjold High School, and (1) at Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute; and
- upcoming professional development for administration on special education-autism spectrum disorder (ASD), followed by legal implications.

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All members' questions were addressed.

**ACTION:** Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, will confirm if the school board supports AAC communication devices through SEA claims.

**ACTION:** Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, will bring bright beginnings data to a future committee meeting.

12. Information/Inquiries & Association Report

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, shared OAC will be visiting Queens's Park next week with the data report in hopes to move the conversation forward. The OAC data report will be available on October 23, 2025, to the public on their website.

Tara Ingram, Easter Seals, provided a Parent Involvement Committee update from their meeting of October 6, 2025.

13. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education reported there was no change to the budget.

14. Board Update

Trustee Vanderwey provided the following Board update:

- During local government week, they will visit (3) grade 10 Civics classes, along with visits to Algonquin Avenue Public School, Vance Chapman Public School and Valley Central Public School to discuss various topics such as; the role of a trustee, what they do and their importance.

15. Adjournment

Moved by Liz Todd

Seconded by Tara Ingram

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 6:59 p.m."*