

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

Vance Chapman Public School

2025 NOV 19  
6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair  
Sarah Niles  
Liz Tod  
Wendy Carroll  
Michelle Blackburn

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair  
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen  
Trustee Patricia Johansen  
Anne Antenucci

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michelle Probizanski  
Maggie Fredrickson  
Christine Jones

Lydia Wiita  
Angela Delorey

**ABSENT WITH REGRET:**

Trustee Leah Vanderwey  
Simona Serrao  
Miranda Myers

Tara Ingram  
Scott McBean

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

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

3. **Welcome & Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, introduced Lydia Wiita, Special Needs Classroom Teacher and Angela Delorey, Principal, Vance Chapman Public School.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhausen

*"THAT the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, November 19, 2025, be approved."*

**CARRIED**

5. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflict of interest.

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6. Delegations

There were no delegates.

7. Presentations

Lydia Wiita, Special Needs Classroom Teacher and Angela Delorey, Principal, Vance Chapman Public School, presented their Special Needs Classroom that supports 15 special needs students. There are 11 student support professionals who work alongside Lydia Wiita. The committee was provided a tour. All members' questions were addressed.

8. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Sarah Niles

*"THAT the minutes of October 15, 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 October 2025 as follows:

- SEAC Annual Report;
- Durham DSB, letter to Minister Calandra; and
- OAC report can be circulated

11. New Business

11.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Principal, Special Education, provided a special education update. All members' questions were addressed.

11.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared a summary of the Ontario Autism Coalition survey. All members' questions were addressed.

11.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, shared a summarized OSPBA report on special education overspending in Ontario public school boards.

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12. Information/Inquiries & Association Report

- Anne Antenucci, Autism Ontario, shared that City of Thunder Bay's Parade of Lights is scheduled to start 7:00pm on December 6, 2025.
- Michelle Blackburn, George Jeffrey Children's Centre, shared that their Smart Start Hub is partnered with Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, Anishnawbe Mushkiki and The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board, which has three locations. There is also a site at Intercity Mall.
- Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, shared that the budget consultation starts January 28, 2026.

13. SEAC Budget Update

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

14. Board Update

Trustee Tuchenhausen provided the following Board update:

- a meeting was requested by Director Pharand, Trustee Vanderwey and Trustee LeBlanc with MPP Holland to discuss transportation and special education needs;
- Bill 33, was passed today, November 19, 2025; and
- a recent interview with Trustee Vanderwey on how Trustees are vital to Ontario's Education System and highlighting the importance of ensuring Northwestern Ontario remains heard as our needs can be different from Southern Ontario.  
Linkd below:  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/thunder-bay-trustees-provincial-supervision-9.6986610>

15. Adjournment

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

*"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:36 p.m."*