



Office of The Superintendent of Education  
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**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

**Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

**Jim McCuaig Education Centre**

Suzanne Posthumus  
Chair

Alina Cameron  
Vice Chair

**AGENDA**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**6:00 P.M. – in the Board Room**

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. Call to Order	Chair	
2. Land Acknowledgement	Chair	
3. Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trustee Saarinen &amp; Trustee Vanderwey; and</li><li>• Robyn Eady-Sitar, Vision Itinerant Teacher</li><li>• Eyjolina Chapman, Special Education Facilitator</li><li>• Michelle Frappa, Student Support Professional</li></ul>	Chair	
4. Approval of the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEAC Meeting, December 17, 2025</li></ul>	Chair Chair	
5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest	Chair	
6. Delegations	Chair	
7. Presentations		
7.1 Eyjolina Chapman & Michelle Frappa, A Day in the Life	E. Chapman & M. Frappa	
7.2 Robyn Eady-Sitar, Vision Itinerant Services Presentation	R. Eady Sitar	
8. Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEAC Meeting, November 19, 2025</li></ul>	Chair	1-3
9. Business Arising from the Minutes		
10. Work Plan		4-8

Chair and Vice-Chair will be available for comment after the Meeting.

11. Correspondence

- Waterloo Region DSB, Letter of Support;
- Pre-Budget Consultations 2026, Ontario Autism Coalition;
- OAC Townhall Meeting in Thunder Bay, December 14, 2025, OAC;
- December 2025 Early ON, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care;
- Smart Start Hub Flyer, George Jeffrey Children's Centre;
- Ontario Taking Action to Improve Student Achievement;
- RARC Parent Workshop Series; and
- Autism Ontario Statement, Bill 33.

12. New Business

12.1 Possible Future SEAC Event

12.2 Special Education Update

Chair  
M. Fredrickson

13. Information/Inquires & Association Reports

All

14. SEAC Budget Update

M. Probizanski

15. Board Update

Trustee

16. Adjournment

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.

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.

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 attended 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."*

## SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

<b>Goal 1</b>	<b>Increase SEAC Awareness and Understanding of Schools and Special Education Programs and Services</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite at least three schools to present information on how they support students and provide a tour of facility.</li> <li>• Hold SEAC meetings at schools that present.</li> </ul>		
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAC members increase knowledge and understanding of services offered within the school community</li> </ul>		
<b>Timeline</b>	June 2025 and ongoing	<b>Responsible</b>	Chair, Vice Chair, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
<b>Record of Progress</b>			

## SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

<b>Goal 2</b>	<b>Advocate for Students with Special Needs</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to current opportunities to advocate for students and families (i.e. transition committees, other initiatives)</li> <li>Advocate for students and families through the SEAC Advocacy Program</li> <li>Review and provide input into LDSB policies and corresponding procedures which are relevant to SEAC from September 2025 to June 2026 as outlined in the “Order of Policies for Development and Review”</li> <li>Invite policy review leads to attend and present policies and procedures at SEAC meetings</li> </ul>		
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEAC members have access to a platform which allows them to provide input into LDSB policies and procedures</li> <li>SEAC members are invited to provide input into the LDSB budget</li> </ul>		
<b>Timeline</b>	June 2025 and ongoing	<b>Responsible</b>	All SEAC Members
<b>Record of Progress</b>			

## SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

<b>Goal 3</b>	<b>Improve Parent / Guardian Knowledge of Special Education and SEAC, and Engage Parents in Supporting Their Child / Children</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect with Parent Involvement Committee and School Council Chairs to arrange presentation(s) about SEAC</li> <li>• Inform Parents / Guardians of Current Board Initiative</li> <li>• Finalize video(s) related to student supports and accommodations</li> <li>• Include SEAC meeting dates under “Upcoming Events” on the main page of Lakehead Public Schools’ website</li> <li>• Send SEAC information out to community organizations (i.e. role, meeting dates)</li> </ul>		
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback through SEAC Members</li> <li>• Participation level in SEAC events</li> <li>• Broader distribution of SEAC information within the community</li> </ul>		
<b>Timeline</b>	June 2025 and Ongoing	<b>Responsible</b>	All SEAC Members, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
<b>Record of Progress</b>			



## SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

<b>Goal 4</b>	<b>Keep SEAC Materials Current</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update binders on an annual basis (as needed)</li> <li>• Review and update advocacy memo; share with schools, community partners and post on the Board website</li> <li>• Maintain SEAC advocacy information, and other materials, which can be shared with students, parents/guardians/caregivers and schools.</li> </ul>		
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAC materials are current and available for easy access</li> </ul>		
<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing	<b>Responsible</b>	All SEAC Members, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
<b>Record of Progress</b>			

## SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

<b>Goal 5</b>	<b>Provide Input to the Board, organizations, agencies and committees as requested.</b>		
<b>Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with other bodies to support special needs students</li> </ul>		
<b>Indicators of Success</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requests for SEAC engagement have been addressed.</li> </ul>		
<b>Timeline</b>	Ongoing	<b>Responsible</b>	All SEAC Members, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
<b>Record of Progress</b>			