

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2025 DEC 17
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Trustee Patricia Johansen
Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Anne Antenucci
Tara Ingram
Scott McBean

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Maggie Fredrickson
Carly Hubbard

Eyjolina Chapman
Robyn Eady-Sitar

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Simona Serrao

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, acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

3. **Welcome & Introductions**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, introduced and welcomed the following trustees who were appointed as members of SEAC for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Trustee George Saarinen; and
- Trustee Leah Vanderwey.

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, introduced the following presenters:

- Eyjolina Chapman, Special Education Facilitator; and
- Robyn Eady-Sitar, Itinerant Blind/Low Vision Teacher.

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4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded Tara Ingram

"THAT the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, December 17, 2025, be approved."

CARRIED

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were none.

6. Delegations

There were no delegates.

7. Presentations

- 7.1 Eyjolina Chapman, Special Education Facilitator at Claude E. Garton Public School, delivered a presentation titled *A Day in the Life*, highlighting the range of supports a facilitator provides within a school setting.

All members' questions were addressed.

- 7.2 Robyn Eady-Sitar, Vision Itinerant Teacher, delivered a presentation titled *Vision Itinerant Services*, outlining the supports and services provided to students who are blind or have low vision.

All members' questions were addressed.

8. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Sarah Niles

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

"THAT the minutes of November 19, 2025, SEAC meeting be approved."

DEFEATED

Outcome: Motion Defeated due to an edit required to the first bullet point under Item 14 of the November 19, 2025, minutes. The revised minutes will be brought forward for approval at the next SEAC meeting.

9. Business Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

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10. Work Plan

The work plan was presented and reviewed. Revisions, as discussed, will be incorporated and the updated work plan will be included in the agenda package for the next meeting.

11. Correspondence

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair reviewed the SEAC correspondence that was distributed during the month of November 2025 as follows:

- Waterloo Region District School Board, 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 Maggie Fredrickson, Principal, Special Education, provided a special education update:
- student success story at Armstrong Public School;
 - high volume of incoming requests from the region outside of Thunder Bay with extensive needs. Plans are being made to creatively accommodate these requests;
 - update on IEPs; and
 - Maggie Fredrickson, Principal, Special Education, will attend the upcoming Public Education Symposium in Toronto to deliver a presentation on "Safety Toolkits", focusing on strategies for supporting schools experiencing an increase in violent incidents.

All members' questions were addressed.

- 12.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, put forth the suggestion of planning a SEAC event. SEAC members were requested to share possible ideas or suggestions for this event.

13. Information/Inquiries & Association Report

- Anne Antenucci, representative of Autism Ontario, shared the following Autism Ontario update: Upcoming virtual event - paperwork party, and the Sunflower Lanyards program;
- Alina Cameron, Community member provided the Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) update.

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14. SEAC Budget Update

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

15. Board Update

Trustee Vanderwey provided the following Board update:

- annual meeting December 2nd 2025, the chair and vice chair were acclaimed and remained the same;
- at the Finance Committee December 9th, 2025, the chair and vice chair were acclaimed and remained the same;
- an advocacy letter submitted by the Miiniwewinan Indigenous Education Advisory Committee was approved at the last Regular Board Meeting, November 25, 2025; and
- A letter was submitted by the Board to the editor of the Chronicle Journal, subject: understanding the critical role of the democratically elected school board trustees.

16. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Sarah Niles

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:38 p.m.”