

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Jim McCuaig Education Centre

2026 JAN 21
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Trustee George Saarinen
Anne Antenucci
Tara Ingram
Scott McBean

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maggie Fredrickson
Simona Serrao

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Michelle Probizanski

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There were none.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Liz Tod

“THAT the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, January 21, 2026, be approved.”

4. **Land Acknowledgement**

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

5. **Delegations and Presentations**

5.1 Sasha Friske, Registered Behavior Analyst, and Kim Pineau, Autism Resource Teacher, presented the Autism Student Supports Presentation.

All members' questions were addressed.

5.2 There were no delegations

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6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Anne Antenucci

Seconded by Sarah Niles

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

CARRIED

Moved by Michelle Blackburn

Seconded by Alina Cameron

“THAT the minutes of December 17, 2025, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Unfinished Business and General Orders

There were none.

8. Work Plan – N/A

9. Correspondence

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

- Policy under review: Use of School Buildings, Facilities & Grounds - Due February 9, 2026;
- Special Education Advisory Committee Table at Superior Collegiate & Vocational Institute: Grade 8 Open House - February 11, 2026, 7 p.m.; and
- Special Education Advisory Committee Table at Hammarskjold High School – February 12, 2026, 6 p.m.

10. New Business

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

- Lakehead Public Schools (LPS) Speech-Language Team is managing a high caseload. An increasing number of students are entering school as non-speakers, intensifying the need for additional support. Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) has received additional Northern Adjustment funding to engage external providers to help alleviate pressure in this area;
- training was scheduled for special education facilitators on Friday, January 16, 2026, to self-evaluate their IEPs. This training was a success with good discussion and learning; and
- student support professionals (SSP) update was provided on learning and training.

All members' questions are addressed.

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11. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

- Anne Antenucci of Autism Ontario provided the Autism Ontario update. April 2026 is Autism Awareness month. Theme this year is 'Celebrate the Spectrum'. April 2, 2026 is World Autism Day;
- Scott McBean of Children's Centre Thunder Bay shared an update of change in CEO for their organization effective April 1, 2026. Terra Lofts has been appointed as the new CEO;
- Michelle Blackburn provided the George Geffery Children's Centre update; and
- Alina Cameron, Community Member, provided the Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) update.

12. SEAC Budget Update

Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, reported the SEAC Budget to be at \$ 9,109.

13. Board Update

Trustee Vanderwey provided the following Board update from the recent Board Advisory Committee meeting, January 13, 2026:

- the Arts Department chair and team were awarded the Trustee Character Award for the Chippewa Park Carousel;
- the Arts Program presented an overview of their program. All areas of the strategic plan initiatives are met in this program; and
- the Health and Safety Program – Semi Annual Report was presented.

14. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

"THAT we do now adjourn at 7:00 p.m."