

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026
 Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute**

Suzanne Posthumus
 Chair

Alina Cameron
 Vice Chair

AGENDA
PUBLIC SESSION
6:00 p.m.

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. CALL TO ORDER	S. Posthumus	
2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST		
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA	S. Posthumus	
4. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	S. Posthumus	
5. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS		
5.1 Westgate Collegiate and Vocational Institute – Special Needs Classroom Presentation & Tour	R. McDonnell	
5.2 Delegations – N/A		
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION	S. Posthumus	
• Special Education Advisory Committee - March 26, 2026		1-5
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS		
• Advocacy Updates	All	
8. WORK PLAN	M. Probizanski	6-10
9. CORRESPONDENCE	S. Posthumus	11-18
• FASD Community Town Hall Meeting to Build Support for Bill S-234, April 2, 2026;		
• invitation - World Autism Day Flag Raising – École Elsie MacGill Public School, April 2, 2026;		
• Ontario Early Adversity and Resilience Framework Report – link;		
• Beyond the Ban -Empowering Children in The Digital Age, April 20, 2026; and		
• April 2026 at Abiinojiishik amino yawook EarlyON.		

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
10. NEW BUSINESS		
10.1 Special Education Update	M. Fredrickson	
10.2 Fall 2026 SEAC Guest Speaker: Ideas and Direction	All	
11. INFORMATION/ INQUIRIES & ASSOCIATION REPORTS	All	
12. SEAC BUDGET UPDATE	M. Probizanski	
13. PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC) UPDATE – N/A		
14. BOARD UPDATE	Trustee	
15. ADJOURNMENT		

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Board Room/Microsoft Teams

2026 MAR 26
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Sarah Niles
Wendy Carroll (virtual)
Michelle Blackburn
Miranda Myers (virtual)

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Trustee Leah Vanderwey
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen (alternate)
Scott McBean (virtual)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Trustee Patricia Johansen (virtual)
Maggie Fredrickson
Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk

Michelle Probizanski
Simona Serrao

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Trustee George Saarinen
Anne Antenucci

Liz Tod
Tara Ingram

1. **Call to Order**

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

There were none.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Vanderwey

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

“THAT the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, March 26, 2026, be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Land Acknowledgement**

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

5. **Delegations and Presentations**

5.1 Angela Lee-Wiwcharyk, Manager of Financial Services, presented the special education funding allocation, proposed budget, and reviewed the budget process and guiding principles for the 2026-2027 school year.

All members' questions were addressed.

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

5.2 There were no delegations

6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Alina Cameron

Seconded by Michelle Blackburn

“THAT the minutes of January 21, 2026, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Unfinished Business and General Orders

7.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the SEAC brochure. It is interactive with hyperlinks to other relevant resources for special education.

Members were given an opportunity to review the brochure and provide feedback. Feedback and changes discussed will be incorporated in the final version. Any additional feedback can be sent to Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary.

The SEAC brochure, once finalized, will be posted on the Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) website, SEAC webpage as a resource.

8. Work Plan

The 2025-2026 SEAC work plan was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Correspondence

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair reviewed the SEAC correspondence that was distributed during the month of February and March 2026, as follows:

- February 2026 at Abiinojiishiik amino yawook EarlyON;
- Lakehead District School Board administrative policies under review, with input due March 29, 2026:
 - Fundraising in Schools;
 - Territorial Students Program – Transportation & Services; and
 - Fees for Learning Materials and Activities;
- Lakehead District School Board governance policies under review, with input due March 29, 2026:
 - 5010 Special Education Policy & Procedures;
 - 7030 Human rights and Workplace Harassment;
- Empowered Kids Ontario (EKO) scholarship information;
- FASD Support Group Information;
- Durham District School Board SEAC – Letter of Support for School Board Trustees;
- March 2026 at Abiinojiishiik amino yawook EarlyON; and
- Autism Ontario Invite – Join Celebrate the Spectrum April 1-30, 2026.

All members' questions were addressed.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

10. New Business

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

- **Welcome to Kindergarten Event:** Lakehead Public Schools hosted a Welcome to Kindergarten event at École Elsie MacGill Public School, which was well attended. SEAC participated with an information table staffed by the Chair and Vice Chair. A strong focus was placed on supporting the transition to school for students with identified needs;
- **Special Education Professional Development (PD):** A recent after-school special education PD session was well attended and considered a success. The session was well received, with positive feedback from administrators;
- **Upcoming Administrator IPRC PD:** PD session for administrators is scheduled, focusing on effective IPRC practices. Topics will include legal requirements, family engagement, and best practices, with a mock IPRC session included to support learning;
- **Special Education Facilitator PD:** Special Education Facilitators will receive PD aligned with the administrator training outlined above;
- **World Autism Awareness Day:** Many LPS schools are recognizing World Autism Awareness Day by raising the flag. SEAC members, trustees, and senior administration, have been invited to attend the flag-raising ceremony at École Elsie MacGill Public School on April 2, 2026;
- **Assistive Technology Training:** Budget has been allocated for assistive technology training to support teachers in understanding the features and functions of available technologies. A follow-up session with the same group is anticipated in late May 2026 to review student learning needs and next steps;
- **Student Support Professionals (SSPs) PD:** Ruth Mills facilitated PD sessions for SSPs, focusing on supporting youth with complex needs as they navigate school and social environments. Sessions were held for both elementary and secondary SSPs, emphasizing understanding diversity within complex needs;
- **Student Support Professional (SSP) Allocation Committee:** A new SSP allocation committee will be implemented for the coming year. This change provides an opportunity for administrators and central staff to collaboratively participate in decision-making related to budgeting, resource allocation, and effective use of available funds; and
- **Student Activities:** Highlights were shared regarding activities and opportunities supporting students with special needs across the system.

All members' questions are addressed.

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

- 10.2 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the following Special Education Programs update:

Changes are being considered for the Day Treatment Program in partnership with Children's Centre Thunder Bay to better support students with complex special education needs. Options to improve and streamline are currently under discussion. Plans are not yet finalized. Preliminary ideas have been discussed, and a more detailed update will be brought forward to SEAC once decisions are further developed.

- 10.3 Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, provided an overview of Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessments and shared summary of results for Grades 3 and 6.

- 10.4 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, informed the committee of the letter received from the Finance Committee inviting SEAC to submit a written deputation regarding the 2026–2027 budget. The committee discussed content to include in the written submission.

Committee members were asked to share any additional feedback or suggestions for inclusion, to Simona Serrao, by the morning of March 27, 2026.

- 10.5 Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, reminded the committee of the invitation for SEAC to be represented at the Equity and Inclusive Education Advisory Committee and encouraged members to consider the opportunity.

Members interested in serving as the SEAC representative are asked to notify Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary.

11. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

- Alina Cameron, Community Member, shared the 2025-2026 OAC survey results data and OAC update.

12. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the status of the SEAC budget.

13. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Update

Suzanne Posthumus provided the following update from the recent PIC meeting:

- presentation on the Indigenous Education Framework and its support for LPS students;
- budget presentation highlighting provincial funding pressures and planned investments;
- update on LPS Foundation activities, including an upcoming trivia night and volunteer involvement;
- discussion on cyber awareness;

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

- partnership update with Sister Margaret Smith;
- planning underway for a daycare at École Gron Morgan Public School; and
- update shared on international students within the Board.

14. Board Update

Trustee Vanderwey provided the following Board update from the recent Board meeting, Tuesday, March 24, 2026:

- shortage of bus drivers for school transportation was reported; and
- a motion was passed to have the same number of elected trustees for the upcoming election of trustees.

15. Adjournment

Moved by Sarah Niles

Seconded by Trustee Tuchenhagen

“THAT we do now adjourn at 7:53 p.m.”

SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

Goal 1	Increase SEAC Awareness and Understanding of Schools and Special Education Programs and Services		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite at least three schools to present information on how they support students and provide a tour of facility. • Hold SEAC meetings at schools that present. 		
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAC members increase knowledge and understanding of services offered within the school community 		
Timeline	June 2025 and ongoing	Responsible	Chair, Vice Chair, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
<p>Record of Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakehead District School Board (LDSB) Learning Supports Team presentation at SEAC meeting, September 17, 2025; • Lakehead Public Schools Language Team presentation at SEAC meeting, October 15, 2025; • Students with Special Needs Classroom Presentation and tour at SEAC meeting, November 19, 2025, held at Vance Chapman Public School; • Claude E. Garton Public-school, special education facilitator presentation - <i>A Day in the Life</i> of a special education facilitator at SEAC meeting, December 17, 2025; and • Vision Itinerant Services Presentation at SEAC meeting, December 17, 2025. • ongoing SEAC Correspondence • special education updates by Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education and Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education; and • updates on school funding, Bill 33 – understanding the Board’s response enables the community to remain informed and engaged. 			

SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

Goal 2	Advocate for Students with Special Needs		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to current opportunities to advocate for students and families (i.e. transition committees, other initiatives) • Advocate for students and families through the SEAC Advocacy Program • 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” • Invite policy review leads to attend and present policies and procedures at SEAC meetings 		
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAC members have access to a platform which allows them to provide input into LDSB policies and procedures • SEAC members are invited to provide input into the LDSB budget 		
Timeline	June 2025 and ongoing	Responsible	All SEAC Members
<p>Record of Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Review process has been changed: Policies owned by the Board of Trustees under governance are reviewed by the Board as a whole. Administrative policies will be reviewed by Senior Teams. Policies under review are sent out to the committees of the Board for constituent input. List of policies under review for 2025-2026 was shared with SEAC. • The Board Updates are shared regularly at SEAC meetings. 			

SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

Goal 3	Improve Parent / Guardian Knowledge of Special Education and SEAC, and Engage Parents in Supporting Their Child / Children		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Parent Involvement Committee and School Council Chairs to arrange presentation(s) about SEAC • Inform Parents / Guardians of Current Board Initiative • Finalize video(s) related to student supports and accommodations • Include SEAC meeting dates under “Upcoming Events” on the main page of Lakehead Public Schools’ website • Send SEAC information out to community organizations (i.e. role, meeting dates) 		
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback through SEAC Members • Participation level in SEAC events • Broader distribution of SEAC information within the community 		
Timeline	June 2025 and Ongoing	Responsible	All SEAC Members, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
<p>Record of Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025-2026 SEAC meeting schedule has been uploaded to the LDSB website; • The Evolution of Inclusion Presentation by Shelley Moore; • Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) information table at Kindergarten night, January 28th, 2025 at École Elsie MacGill Public School; • Special Education pamphlets updated and shared with schools; and • Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) information table at Grade 8 Open House nights at high schools. 			

SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

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

SEAC Work Plan 2025-2026

Goal 5	Provide Input to the Board, organizations, agencies and committees as requested.		
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with other bodies to support special needs students 		
Indicators of Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for SEAC engagement have been addressed. 		
Timeline	Ongoing	Responsible	All SEAC Members, Superintendent, Executive Secretary
<p>Record of Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAC representatives attend Parent Involvement Committee meetings; • SEAC provides input on the annual proposed budget with the opportunity of submitting a budget deputation for consideration; and • Request was put out to SEAC to join the Equity Committee. 			

SEAC

CORRESPONDENCE



**ONTARIO
FASD
COALITION**

**We Support a
#NationalFASDFramework**

**Join our virtual Town Hall
on April 2, 2026 at 7 pm ET
to learn how you can support Bill S-234**



From: [Simona Serrao](#)
Subject: Invitation to LDSB SEAC Members: World Autism Day Flag Raising – École Elsie Macgill Public School, April 2, 2026, 11 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 3:15:33 PM

Dear SEAC Members,

You are warmly invited to join us in recognition of **World Autism Day** for a **Flag Raising Ceremony** at **École Elsie Macgill**.

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2026

Time: Ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m.

🕒 Arrival for Participants: Please arrive by 10:45 a.m.

Location: École Elsie Macgill Public School (Front Doors)
130 Churchill Drive West
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1V5

This event serves as an important opportunity for us to stand together in support of students, families, and community members with Autism, and to reaffirm our commitment to inclusion and awareness across our schools.

We hope you are able to join us for this meaningful moment. A calendar invite/appointment will follow soon.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Simona Serrao

**Assistant to Kirsti Alaksa, Superintendent of Business; and
Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education**

Office of the Superintendents



Lakehead District School Board
Jim McCuaig Education Centre
2135 Sills Street

From: [Alina Cameron](#)
To: [Simona Serrao](#)
Subject: O N T A R I O EARLY ADVERSITY AND RESILIENCE F R A M E W O R K
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026 7:58:00 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Lakehead District School Board. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, have verified their email address and know the content is safe. (MsgID: LDSB20190424)

Hello Simona,

Here is a report to share with the SEAC:

<https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/EarlyAdversityandResilience/ontario-early-adversity-and-resilience-framework---final--aoda-1.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Thanks!

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Alina A. N. Cameron
B.Sc., [B.H.Sc.](#), M.Sc. Medicine (Community Health Sciences)

33 Hacquoil Road
Slate River, Ontario
P7J 0E1
Canada

From: [Alina Cameron](#)
To: [Simona Serrao](#)
Subject: Fwd: Beyond the Ban -Empowering Children In The Digital Age
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026 7:53:39 PM
Attachments: [IMG_9799.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Lakehead District School Board. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, have verified their email address and know the content is safe. (MsgID: LDSB20190424)

An opportunity for the SEAC members.
with appreciation,
Alina

----- Forwarded message -----

From: DCI Canada <office@dci-canada.org>
Date: Tue, 24 Mar 2026 at 20:20
Subject: Beyond the Ban -Empowering Children In The Digital Age
To:

Dear Friend

Please join the President of Defense For Children International-Canada in conversation with Heidi Chan , Founder of Youth Led , Kids Rights Canada for a discussion sure to disrupt current narratives around social media, all things digital and child safety.

Monday April 20 , 1pm on line

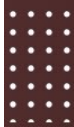
Bring your ideas and thoughts and participate in this vital dialogue.

RSVP here

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/beyond-the-ban-empowering-children-in-the-digital-age-tickets-1985734339865?aff=oddtcreator>

Take care

DCI-Canada



BEYOND THE BAN



EMPOWERING CHILDREN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

As discussions around social media bans for children intensify, we ask the question – is this what’s best for our children? Join us to explore why we must shift the paradigm from restriction and protection to empowerment and digital citizenship.

Learn how we can foster safe, agency-driven online spaces and advocate for real child-centric policies, ensuring children are empowered...



MONDAY 20 APRIL, 2026 | 1 PM (EST)



Irwin Elman
President, Defence For Children
International - Canada



Heidi Chan
Founder, Kids Rights Canada





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Alina A. N. Cameron
B.Sc., [B.H.Sc.](#), M.Sc. Medicine (Community Health Sciences)

33 Hacquoil Road
Slate River, Ontario
P7J 0E1
Canada

Abinojishik-aminoyawook EarlyON Child and Family Centre

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Drop In 9:30 - 4:00	2 Intercity 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 9:30 - 4:00	3 <i>Good Friday</i>	4
 5	6 <i>HAPPY Easter</i>	7 Drop In 9:30 - 3:30	8 Drop In 9:30 - 4:00	9 Intercity 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 9:30 - 4:00	10 Drop In 9:30 - 3:30	11
12	13 Drop In 11:30 - 3:00 Family Fun Night 3:30 - 6:00	14 Drop In 9:30 - 3:30	15 Beaded Keychain Workshop 10:00 - 2:00	16 Intercity 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 9:30 - 4:00	17	18 Drop In 9:30 - 3:30
19	20 Drop In 11:30 - 6:00	21 Drop In 9:30 - 3:30	 22 Morning Cuddles & Crumbs 9:30 - 12:30 Drop In 1:00 - 4:00	23 Intercity 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 9:30 - 4:00	24 Drop In 9:30 - 3:30	25
26	27 Drop In 11:30 - 3:00 Family Fun Night 3:30 - 6:00	28 Drop In 9:30 - 3:30	29 Drop In 9:30 - 4:00	30 Spring Feast Call to register		

Abiinojiushiik-amino-yawook

translated means children raised in a good way.

Parents and caregivers of infants and children up to the age of six can access the center five days a week for learning experience, social interaction, support from early childhood educators. As an Anishinabek-led center, parents and caregivers can expect the center to be culturally-safe, relevant, reciprocal, and respectful.

EarlyON Program Information

Drop In - Perfect place for kids to play, explore, and make new friends in a safe and welcoming environment! No registration required—just drop in during our open hours and let the fun begin.

Intercity - The Early Years Community site is a shared space where service providers offer families and children a place to play and explore local resources, supports, and programs.

Morning Cuddles & Crumbs - Rise and shine with snuggles and snacks! Join us for a fun-filled morning where you and your little one can cuddle up and enjoy a tasty, nutritious breakfast snack together.

Family Fun Night - Join us for evening family fun! Bring the whole family for a special time to learn, play, and grow together in a safe and welcoming environment. Enjoy fun activities with your child(ren) and connect with other families in our community. Dinner will be provided. Call 807-939-3160 or text us at 807-632-0530 to register.

Beaded Keychain Workshop - Join us to create your own beautiful beaded keychain with Jennifer! Lunch and child minding are available. Please contact us to register! Call 807-939-3160 or Text 807-632-0530.

Spring Feast - Join us for a warm and welcoming Spring Feast! Families from EarlyON, ICDS, and SNAP are invited to gather, share a meal, and celebrate the season together in a culturally rich and family-friendly environment. Call to register.