

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING

**Wednesday, June 10, 2026
 Jim McCuaig Education Centre**

Suzanne Posthumus
 Chair

Alina Cameron
 Vice Chair

AGENDA

PUBLIC SESSION

6:00 p.m. – Board Room/Microsoft Teams

	<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 Math Achievement Plan	P. Pesola	
5.2 2026 – 2027 Special Education Plan	M. Fredrickson	
5.3 School Climate Data	M. Probizanski	
5.4 Delegations – N/A		
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – PUBLIC SESSION		
• Special Education Advisory Committee - May 20, 2026	S. Posthumus	1-4
7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS		
7.1 Follow-up: New Bridges Classrooms	M. Probizanski	
7.2 Guest Speaker Information: SEAC Fall Event	M. Fredrickson	5
8. WORK PLAN	All	6-10

	<u>Resource Person</u>	<u>Pages</u>
9. CORRESPONDENCE	S. Posthumus	11-17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of support to Ministry of Education: Upper Grand District School Board, SEAC for Simcoe County District School Board's special education and mental health needs funding; • June at Abiinojiishiik amino yawook EarlyON; and • Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC) – Workshop Series Registration: Parents of Students with Disabilities or ADHD, Grades 7-9. 		
10. NEW BUSINESS		
10.1 Special Education Update	M. Fredrickson	
10.2 SIP, SEA Audit	M. Probizanski	
10.3 SEAC Presentation Schedule for Next Year	M. Probizanski	
11. INFORMATION/ INQUIRIES & ASSOCIATION REPORTS	All	
12. SEAC BUDGET UPDATE	M. Probizanski	
13. PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC) UPDATE	T. Ingram/ S. Posthumus	
14. BOARD UPDATE	Trustee	
15. ADJOURNMENT		

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Board Room/Microsoft Teams

2026 MAY 20
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Liz Tod
Scott McBean
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen

Anne Antenucci
Brandon Robb
Sarah Niles
Trustee Pat Johansen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Simona Serrao

Maggie Fredrickson
Megan Semeniuk

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Tara Ingram
Miranda Myers

Michelle Blackburn
Trustee George Saarinen
Wendy Carroll

1. **Call to Order**

Alina Cameron, Vice 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 Sarah Niles

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“That the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, May 20, 2026, be approved.”

CARRIED

4. **Land Acknowledgement**

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

5. Delegations and Presentations

5.1 Megan Semeniuk, Mental Health Lead, presented the Mental Health – Annual Report.

All members' questions were addressed.

5.2 There were no delegations.

6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“That the minutes of April 15, 2026, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Unfinished Business and General Orders

• SEAC Fall Event Guest Speaker Update

Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, provided an update regarding efforts to secure a potential guest speaker for the proposed Fall SEAC led event. Outreach has been initiated to several organizations. Ruth Mills, Social Worker, Kaleidoscope Mental Health, who recently delivered training to Student Support Professionals (SSPs), has expressed interest in presenting to caregivers and educators as part of this event. She is available to develop a detailed proposal for a potential Fall engagement.

Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, will forward the relevant information to Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary, for distribution to SEAC members for review and feedback.

8. Work Plan – N/A

9. Correspondence

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair reviewed the SEAC correspondence that was distributed during the month of May 2026, as follows:

- Moose Hide Campaign - Walk to End Violence event – May 14, 2026;
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board - SEAC Letter to Ministry in Support of Trustees;
- Invitation – American Sign Language (ASL) Student Performance by Claude E. Garton Public School Sign Club – May 5, 2026;
- May 2026 at Abiinojiishiik amino yawook EarlyON;
- Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) Special Education Survey Report (2024-2025);
- Correspondence from Waterloo Region District School Board; and
- Auditor General of Ontario - Special Education Report, May 12, 2026.

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

10. New Business

10.1 Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, provided an update highlighting the following:

- several students are benefiting from the *Bright Beginnings Program*, which has proven to be an effective support for transitioning into school;
- the *Auditor General's Report* will be reviewed collaboratively by Special Education staff. The report will inform planning for professional development for the upcoming school year; and
- the final session of the Special Education after-school facilitator training was completed. The session was well attended, provided valuable learning opportunities, and participant feedback has been collected.

All members' questions were addressed.

10.2 2025-2026 SEAC Leadership Scholarships & Awards

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the recipients of the 2025–2026 SEAC Leadership Scholarships and Awards. Detailed write-ups of the student recipients are included in the meeting package.

10.3 New Classrooms

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the development of new classroom programs. The revised funding model allows for increased flexibility in program design and the opportunity to collaborate with community treatment partners.

Two new *Bridges* classrooms are in the early planning stages at McKellar Park Central Public School, serving students in Grades 2 to 5 and Grades 6 to 8. These programs will support students' mental health, well-being, and transition needs. Social workers will work collaboratively with students and families as part of the program. A longer-term placement model is being considered to support improved student outcomes.

In addition, a new special education classroom is being explored at Sherbrooke Public School, with a potential start in the Fall, pending final planning.

Members were invited to provide feedback for the new special education classrooms to Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, and Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, by email.

All members' questions were addressed.

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

11. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

- Anne Antenucci, representative of Autism Ontario, provided an organizational update;
- Alina Cameron, Community Member, provided the Ontario Autism Coalition (OAC) update; and
- Scott McBean, representative of Children’s Centre Thunder Bay, put forth the suggestion of Lakehead District School Board, SEAC, submitting a letter to the Minister of Education, consistent with correspondence from other SEACs across Ontario, outlining concerns regarding the impact of Bill 33 and Bill 101 on special education programs and services. Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, offered to prepare a draft letter for SEAC’s review and feedback, incorporating current issues affecting special education.

Scott McBean brought forward the following motion:

“That the Lakehead District School Board, Special Education Advisory Committee, write a letter to express concern regarding the impact of Bill 33 and Bill 101 on Special Education Programs and Services.”

Moved by Scott McBean

Seconded by Sarah Niles

CARRIED

12. SEAC Budget Update

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the budget update.

13. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Update – N/A

14. Equity & Inclusive Education Advisory Committee Update – N/A

15. Board Update

Trustee Tuchenhagen, provided the following Board update:

- the resignation of Board Chair, Trustee Vanderwey;
- the election of Trustee Oikonen as the new Board Chair; and
- the Board has until August 3, 2026, to appoint a new trustee.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

From: [Simona Serrao](#)
To: [Simona Serrao](#)
Subject: Request for Feedback: Guest Speaker Options for SEAC Fall Event (Follow-Up from May 20, 2026 Meeting)
Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 2:25:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear SEAC Members,

Further to the SEAC meeting held on May 20, 2026, two potential guest speakers have been identified for consideration for the proposed Fall SEAC event. Direction from the committee is requested regarding whether to proceed with obtaining additional information, including availability, presentation format, and associated costs.

Option 1: Katie Jameson (Outside Pin Collective)

Ms. Katie Jameson is based in British Columbia and is affiliated with [Outside Pin Collective.](#), a consulting and speaker organization that includes Dr. Shelley Moore.

Ms. Jameson offers a parent-informed perspective on inclusive education. As outlined in her professional profile:

“With the birth of my daughter, Kenzie, my focus shifted toward advocacy. I have shared stories for years about the discovery of new life that arrived alongside her, and now I have the opportunity to present these experiences as a speaker with the Outside Pin Collective. I share from a parent’s perspective of raising a child with a disability within the education system, highlighting the importance and impact of inclusive education for students with disabilities in the classroom”

Option 2: Ruth Mills (Kaleidoscope Mental Health)

Ms. Ruth Mills is a local practitioner and founder of [Kaleidoscope Mental Health](#). Her work emphasizes neurodiversity and perspective-based approaches to mental health.

As described on her website: “Transforming Perspectives, Embracing Growth, Embracing neurodiversity in mental health is not about changing who someone is, but about viewing experiences from new perspectives to foster growth. Through this approach, I partner with clients to explore alternative viewpoints and support the development of new possibilities.”

We look forward to receiving your feedback on the above options.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Simona Serrao

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

Office of the Superintendents

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
Record of Progress			
<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

May 13, 2026

Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education
5th Floor 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

VIA EMAIL: minister.edu@ontario.ca

Subject: Funding Support for Students with Special Education and Mental Health Needs

Dear Minister Calandra,

The Upper Grand District School Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is writing to formally express our full support for the funding priorities recently outlined by our colleagues at the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). We recognize that the challenges highlighted by SCDSB are not isolated and are further emphasized in the recent Auditor General report on special education in Ontario. They represent a systemic need for a more responsive and modernized special education funding model in Ontario.

In particular, the UGDSB SEAC wishes to emphasize the following:

- **The 2025 AODA Mandate:** With the 2025 deadline for the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* rapidly approaching, our schools require urgent, dedicated capital investment. Physical accessibility (elevators, washroom modifications, and sensory spaces) is a human right, and boards will face significant challenges to meet these legal obligations within current facilities' budgets.
- **Inter-Ministerial "Wrap-Around" Support:** We strongly echo the call for increased funding for community partners (such as those funded by the Ministry of Health and MCCSS). In particular, our Care and Treatment Education Partners Dufferin Child and Family Services, Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington and Wyndham House.
- require stable and adequate funding to remain viable and cost-effective. When community mental health and therapeutic agencies are underfunded, the burden shifts to the school system. For students to succeed, the "bridge" between healthcare and education must be financially reinforced.
- **Special Incidence Portion (SIP) Sustainability:** While recent updates are noted, the funding must keep pace with the increasing complexity of student needs post-pandemic. High-quality, specialized staffing is the backbone of special education, and the funding must reflect the true cost of hiring and retaining these experts.

The UGDSB SEAC remains committed to ensuring that every student, regardless of their needs, has the resources required to flourish. We urge the Ministry to consider these shared priorities as you develop future funding formulas.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how these regional pressures affect the students of Upper Grand and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



[Laurie Whyte \(May 14, 2026 10:15:44 EDT\)](#)

Laurie Whyte
Chairperson, SEAC



Andrea Wyshniowsky
Vice-chairperson, SEAC

cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Mike Schreiner, MPP, Guelph
Hon. Joseph Racinsky, MPP, Wellington-Halton Hills
Hon. Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon
Hon. Matthew Rae, MPP for Perth-Wellington
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
School Board chairs
Chairs of Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees
Board of Trustees, UGDSB
Peter Sovran, Director of Education and CEO, UGDSB
Brent McDonald, Associate Director and Chief Operating Officer, UGDSB

Abinojiiishiik-amino-yawook

EarlyON Child and Family Centre

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Drop In 11:30 - 3:00 Family Fun Night 3:30 - 6:00	2 Drop In 9:00 - 3:30	3 Drop In 9:00 - 3:30	4 Intercity 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 9:00 - 3:30	5 Drop In 9:00 - 2:00	6
7	8 Drop In 11:30 - 3:00 Family Fun Night 3:30 - 6:00	9 Fun in the Sun 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 1:30 - 3:30	10 Morning Cuddles & Crumbs 9:00 - 12:00 Drop In 12:30 - 3:30	11 Intercity 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 9:00 - 2:00	12	13 Drop In 9:00 - 3:00
14	15 Drop In 11:30 - 3:00 Family Fun Night 3:30 - 6:00	16 Drop In 9:00 - 3:30	17 Walk & Talk at Boulevard 10:00 - 11:00 Drop In 12:00 - 3:30	18 Intercity 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 9:00 - 3:30	19 Drop In 9:00 - 2:00	20
21	22 CLOSED Indigenous Peoples Day	23 Fun in the Sun 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 1:30 - 3:30	24 Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek Street Fair 12:00 - 3:00	25 Intercity 10:00 - 1:00 Drop In 9:00 - 3:30	26 Drop In 9:00 - 2:00	27
28	29 Drop In 1:00 - 3:00 Family Fun Night 3:30 - 6:00	30 Drop In 9:00 - 3:30				

Abinojiiishik-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.

Fun in the Sun - Join us at the Thunder Bay Friendship Garden! It's a wonderful place for families to explore, play, and enjoy time together outdoors.

Walk & Talk at Boulevard Lake - This is a great chance for families with young children to get outside, connect with others, and enjoy some fresh air together. No stroller or wagon? No problem, our EarlyON program will have a 6-seater wagon available for little ones to ride along.

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. It's all about cozy moments, giggles, and yummy bites to kickstart your day the right way.

Family Fun Night - Join us for evening family fun! A special time to learn, play, and grow together in a safe and welcoming environment. Dinner will be provided. Call 807-939-3160 or text us at 807-632-0530 to register.

PARENT WORKSHOP SERIES



2 Half-Day Sessions
August 11 and 12th, 2026



9:00am-12:30pm EDT



Virtual

Program is FREE
Full attendance is required

Who is the program for?

This program is for parents and guardians of students with learning disabilities and/or ADHD who are entering Grades 7, 8, or 9 in Ontario.

Overview

The Parent Workshop Series is a virtual, parent-only program consisting of 2 half-days. This program was designed by the Regional Assessment and Resource Centre (RARC) to support students with learning disabilities and ADHD as they transition from elementary to post-secondary school by providing programming to their parents/guardians.

Based on the parent component of RARC's long-running STEPS (Successful Transition from Elementary to Post-Secondary) program, the Parent Workshop Series will offer parents this same valuable content in a virtual format.

The goal of the program is to provide parents:

- Information and support to understand their child's experience and potential more fully
- Skills to navigate the school system
- Ability to provide timely and targeted support
- Support to know they are not alone



Parent Program Overview



Day 1

Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Their Impact

- Understanding neurodevelopmental disorders
- Impact in the classroom
- Social-emotional impact
- Building self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-advocacy



Day 2

Accommodations and IEPs, and Preparing for High School and Beyond

- Accommodations and strategies to support students
- The IEP and special education process
- How to prepare for high school and beyond





Use the link below or scan the QR code to register for the Parent Workshop Series:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JO-XVpcfS0q-ILCLe0JPpA#/registration



SCAN
to go to our
webpage for
more info



Contact Info

-  (613) 533-6311
-  rarc.transitions@queensu.ca
-  www.queensu.ca/rarc
-  Mackintosh-Corry Hall, B100
68 University Avenue
Kingston, Ontario
Canada K7L 3N6

Register TODAY!
Spots are limited.



Or Click Here:
[Parent Workshop Series Webpage](#)