

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Jim McCuaig Education Centre
Board Room/Microsoft Teams

2026 JUN 10
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair
Anne Antenucci
Scott McBean
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhausen
Wendy Caroll

Amy Bisette (alternate)
Miranda Myers
Sarah Niles
Trustee George Saarinen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski
Simona Serrao
Trustee Patricia Johansen

Maggie Fredrickson
Patti-Jo Pesola

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair
Michelle Blackburn

Liz Tod
Tara Ingram

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

Scott McBean of Children's Centre Thunder Bay, declared conflict of interest for item 7.2 of the agenda.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Saarinen

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

"That the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, June 10, 2026, be approved."

CARRIED

4. **Land Acknowledgement**

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

5. **Delegations and Presentations**

5.1 Patti-Jo Pesola, Superintendent of Education - Math Lead, presented the Math Achievement Plan. Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions, all of which were addressed.

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

- 5.2 Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, presented the 2026-2027 Special Education Plan. Committee members were given the opportunity to provide feedback and ask questions, all of which were addressed.
- 5.3 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, presented the results of the School Climate Data Survey. Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions, all of which were addressed.
- 5.4 Delegations – N/A.

6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen

Seconded by Anne Antenucci

“That the minutes of May 20, 2026, SEAC meeting be approved.”

CARRIED

7. Unfinished Business and General Orders

7.1 Follow-up: New Bridges Classrooms

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided the following update:

- New Bridges classrooms will accommodate students in Grades 2–5 and Grades 6–8;
- planned changes to the school environment to accommodate these new classrooms will be implemented over the summer, including the purchase and installation of necessary equipment; and
- teaching and student support resources have been allocated to the classrooms to support instructional and collaborative needs.

7.2 Guest Speaker Information: SEAC Fall Event

Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, reminded committee members to provide their feedback on the proposed guest speaker options. The details were circulated by email and included in the meeting package. Feedback is to be submitted to Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary, by June 17, 2026.

8. Work Plan

Committee members were asked to review the 2025-2026 SEAC work plan and identify any items requiring addition, with input to be forwarded to Executive Secretary, Simona Serrao. The final copy of the work plan will be circulated as part of the SEAC meeting package in September 2026.

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

9. Correspondence

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair, reviewed the SEAC correspondence that was distributed during the months of May and June 2026, as follows:

- 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 Abiinojiishik 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 Maggie Fredrickson, Principal of Special Education, provided an update highlighting:

- review of special education data of students with exceptionality;
- the receipt and planned use of summer learning funding from the Ministry of Education to support students with special education needs and facilitate a successful transition back to school in September 2026; and
- recognition of special education students and schools for achievements in academics, athletics, and Special Olympics participation.

Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions, all of which were addressed.

10.2 SIP (Special Incidence Portion), SEA (Special Equipment Amount) Audit

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the Ministry of Education audit of SIP, SEA, and specialized equipment at Vance Chapman Public School and Westmount Public School. Feedback was shared and will be forwarded to the Ministry, including advocacy related to increased student needs and staffing supports.

Committee members were given the opportunity to ask questions, all of which were addressed.

10.3 SEAC Presentation Schedule for Next Year

Feedback was requested for the 2026-2027 presentation schedule. Committee members indicated support for the usual annual presentations and suggested potential additions, including:

- Math Achievement Plan (special education focus);
- EQAO;
- Creative Therapy, Ignite;
- Firefly Urgent Response; and
- a "Day in the Life of an SSP."

LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Additional feedback can be submitted by email to Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary.

11. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

- the draft SEAC letter to the Minister of Education addressing concerns regarding recent legislation, special education funding, and the impact on students with special education needs was circulated via email. Feedback on the draft is requested and should be submitted to Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary, by the end of June 2026; and
- for the 2026–2027 SEAC meeting schedule, consideration is being given to moving meetings to daytime or later afternoon time slots. A survey will be distributed to gather input on this potential change.

12. SEAC Budget Update

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

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

14. Board Update

Trustee Saarinen, provided the following Board update:

- Bill 101 (Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026) introduces changes to school board governance, including the role of Director of Education now designated as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and revision of the scope of duties of trustees;
- the budget for the 2026-2027 school year is in the final stages of development, with stakeholder feedback incorporated; and
- trustee elections for the new term will take place on October 26, 2026.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.