LAKEHEAD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Jim McCuaig Education Centre — 2026 SEP 16
Board Room/Microsoft Teams — 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair	Anne Antenucci
Liz Tod	Michelle Blackburn
Scott McBean (Teams)	Sarah Niles
Trustee Trudy Tuchenhagen	Trustee Pat Johansen
Wendy Caroll (Teams)	Trustee George Saarinen (Teams)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michelle Probizanski	Maggie Fredrickson
Simona Serrao	

ABSENT WITH REGRET:

Suzanne Posthumus, Chair	Sara Curtis
Tara Ingram	Miranda Myers

1. Call to Order

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There were none.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Tuchenhagen — Seconded by Liz Tod

"That the agenda for the SEAC Meeting, September 16, 2026, be approved."

CARRIED

4. Land Acknowledgement

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

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5. Delegations and Presentations

5.1 Introduction of Special Education Team

- Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, announced that Sara Curtis has been appointed as the new Principal of Special Education, replacing Maggie Fredrickson, who has accepted a new role within the Board as Superintendent of Education. In the absence of Sara Curtis, Principal of Special Education, Maggie Fredrickson, Superintendent of Education, introduced the Special Education Team for the 2026-2027 school year.

5.2 Special Education Summer Camps

Maggie Fredrickson, Superintendent of Education, presented information regarding the Special Education Summer Camps. Highlights included:

- the **Kindergarten Summer Learning Program** provided support for students requiring additional practice before entering or progressing through kindergarten, with a focus on building confidence and independence;
- **Student Support Professionals (SSPs)** played an important role in supporting student learning throughout all summer programs; and
- The Board partnered with **Superior Life Skills** to provide targeted learning opportunities focused on emotional regulation.

SEAC members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions, all of which were addressed.

5.3 Transitions to School Program

Maggie Fredrickson, Superintendent of Education, provided an update on the Transitions to School Program. Schools implemented a variety of transition activities to support students and families as they prepared for the start of the school year. These activities provided opportunities for students to explore their new school environments, become familiar with classroom routines, and meet their teachers and SSPs.

The transition activities were well received, and students experienced successful transitions into their school settings.

SEAC members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions, all of which were addressed.

5.4 Delegations – N/A

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6. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Anne Antenucci Seconded by Sarah Niles

"That the minutes of , June 10, 2026, SEAC meeting be approved."

CARRIED

7. Unfinished Business and General Orders

- SEAC Guest Speaker Event Update

  Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, provided an update regarding the proposed SEAC guest speaker event, following the member survey to gather feedback. Survey results indicated strong support for inviting Ruth Milles of Kaleidoscope as the guest speaker. Members were in agreement for a proposed November 2026 event date, with a virtual participation option available.

8. Work Plan

The updated 2025-2026 SEAC Work Plan was shared as part of the agenda package.

Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, invited members to review the 2025-2026 SEAC Work plan and consider any changes to the goals or additions for the 2026-2027 year.

Members were requested to bring forth suggestions at the next meeting.

9. Correspondence

Alina Cameron, Vice Chair, reviewed the SEAC correspondence that was distributed during the months of July and August 2026:

- Blue Water District School Board - Letter to Minister of Education Re: Special Education and Mental Health Funding;
- July at Abiinojiishiik amino yawook EarlyON;
- George Jeffery Children's Centre - Summer Program Flyers;
- Thames Valley District School Board - Letter to Minister of Education Re: Special Education Programs & Services Funding;
- August at Abiinojiishiik amino yawook EarlyON;
- 2026-2027 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Invitation to SEAC Members to serve as Representatives on PIC; and
- Raising Capable Kids in the Age of AI (Virtual Event), September 24, 2026.

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10. New Business

10.1 Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, on behalf of Sara Curtis, Principal of Special Education provided the following Special Education update:

- smooth start to the school year;
- all SSP positions have been filled;
- the SSP Allocation Committee met in spring to support equitable staffing allocations across the system, a process that was well received by principals. The committee reconvened last week to review any emerging needs and will continue to meet regularly;
- two new Bridges classrooms have opened and are gradually transitioning students; and
- a new special education classroom was established at Sherbrooke Public School this school year.

Committee members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions, all of which were addressed.

11. Information/Inquiries & Association Reports

- Anne Antenucci provided the Autism Ontario update. World Autism Day this year is on April 2, 2027;
- Michelle Blackburn of George Jefferey Children's Centre provided their organizational update;
- Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, informed members of the ending of the current SEAC term and the new term beginning December 1, 2026 to November 15, 2030, and letters to each local association along with the nomination forms for member and alternate are forthcoming;
- Michelle Probizanski, Superintendent of Education, also advised members that, following recent changes to *Ontario Regulation 521/01*, members of statutory committees of district school boards are now required to obtain a Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check (CRJMC). Additional information and supporting documentation will be provided by Simona Serrao, Executive Secretary; and
- Alina Cameron, Community Member, expressed concerns regarding the decision to move SEAC meetings to an earlier time, noting that daytime meetings may present attendance challenges for members who are not participating as part of their employment and may create barriers for participation.; and put forth the following motion:

"That the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meetings return to the former time of third Wednesday's at 6 p.m."

Moved by Alina Cameron Seconded by Anne Antenucci

CARRIED

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12. SEAC Budget Update

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

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

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

15. Board Update

Trustee Tuchenhagen, provided the following Board update from the recent Board Advisory Committee meeting held on September 8, 2026:

- The committee held its first meeting of the school year, which included introductions of new leadership members; and
- The Board meeting schedule has been revised to reflect changes to Trustee responsibilities resulting from recent legislative changes introduced by the Ministry of Education.

Committee members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions, there were none.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.