



Special Needs Advisory  
Committee (SNAC)

**Special Needs Advisory Committee**  
Lester B. Pearson School Board

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING – MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**

Held at the Lester B. Pearson School Board, 1925 Brookdale, Dorval Room 219/221

**In Attendance:** Sandra Buckingham, Marie-Eve Claude, Cindy Finn, Linton Garner, Brett Hillgartner, Carollynn Jones (PTU), Robin Keough, Daniel Olivenstein, Donnalynn Rainey, Barbara Schnider, Ruth Schwarcz (Professionals), Douglas Stewart (PASA – from 7:09)

**Regrets:** Jennifer DiMarco, Christopher Fuzessy, Stephanie Héroult (PASA), Franca Kesic (WIAIH), Allison Provost (IASS), David Szabo

**Absent:** Christine McLean, Kiley Philp

**Recording Secretary:** Andrew Graham

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**1.0 Confirmation of Quorum: establish voting rights to Alternate members as required**

It was confirmed that quorum had been established and the meeting was called to order by Sandra Buckingham at 7:04 pm. No voting rights were assigned for the evening.

**2.0 Additions to Agenda**

**2.1 Approval of Agenda**

(SNAC1314-3.1) It was moved by Brett Hillgartner to approve the agenda with the addition of 3 items under *Correspondence*, as well as the addition of items 8.1 *Finance Presentation* and 8.2 *Technology Presentation* under *Varia*. The motion was seconded by Donnalynn Rainey and unanimously resolved.

**3.0 Corrections to Minutes of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**3.1 Approval of Minutes of February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The minutes were included in the kit. (SNAC1314-3.2) It was moved by Barbara Schnider to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Robin Keough and unanimously resolved.

*Douglas Stewart arrived at 7:09pm.*

**4.0 Business Arising**

**4.1 Update: SNAC Funding request to Council of Commissioners (Letter sent Feb 3)**

The letter requesting additional funding was sent to Council on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. No response has been received, but it was discussed in caucus. Daniel Olivenstein will follow up to get a formal written response from Chairman Suanne Stein Day.

#### **4.2 Update: Dealing with flight risk concerns for students with Special Needs (Letter sent Feb 3)**

A letter requesting that fire drills include a verification of alarmed exits has been sent to the Emergency Preparedness Policy subcommittee, but no response has been received. It is assumed that the request will be taken into consideration in the draft form of the policy, or may be requested again when the policy is put out for consultation. Daniel Olivenstein and/or Linton Garner will provide an update on the timeline for this Consultation following the next Council meeting on March 31, 2014.

*At this point the meeting proceeded to item 4.4 of the agenda.*

#### **4.3 “Budget” Consultation (Response due March 29):**

[http://lbpsb.qc.ca/content/consultations/budgetconsultation2013\\_2014/2013-2014%20Budget%20Consultation%20Short%20Form.pdf](http://lbpsb.qc.ca/content/consultations/budgetconsultation2013_2014/2013-2014%20Budget%20Consultation%20Short%20Form.pdf)

##### **SNAC’s previous response for 2013-2014:**

[http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/58SNACBudgetConsultationResponse2013-2014\\_Final.pdf](http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/58SNACBudgetConsultationResponse2013-2014_Final.pdf)

The draft response of the consultation response was sent out via email. A paragraph was added to highlight the changes from last year’s response. It was suggested to add a phrase under 1f recommending that efforts be made to “reduce waiting list times for evaluation” and to include the update in the paragraph describing the changes.

A minor change was made to avoid the duplication of the word ‘addition’ on the third page of the response. **(SNAC1314-3.4)** It was moved by Brett Hillgartner to approve the consultation response with the changes. The motion was seconded by Donnalynn Rainey and unanimously resolved.

#### **4.4 “Art & Culture in Education” Consultation (Response due March 21):**

[http://lbpsb.qc.ca/content/consultations/Arts\\_Culture\\_Policy\\_Consultation\\_Document\\_Dec\\_16\\_2013.pdf](http://lbpsb.qc.ca/content/consultations/Arts_Culture_Policy_Consultation_Document_Dec_16_2013.pdf)

The draft version of the consultation response was sent out via email. Minor changes were made to correct the word “and” under item 4 and to read “included to the fullest extent possible” under items 1 & 3. **(SNAC1314-3.3)** It was moved by Brett Hillgartner to approve the consultation response with the changes. The motion was seconded by Barbara Schnider and unanimously resolved.

*At this point the meeting resumed with item 4.3.*

It was requested that classroom teachers be added to the list of people that are met prior to the school start date (under 1d). **(SNAC1314-3.5)** It was moved by Brett Hillgartner to approve the change to the consultation response. The motion was seconded by Donnalynn Rainey and unanimously resolved.

*At this point the meeting resumed with item 8.3.*

## **5.0 Reports**

A copy of the SNAC report to CPC and Education Committee was included in the kit.

### **5.1 Administration**

Cindy Finn provided a verbal report as the administration report was not included in the kit. Currently, they are doing interviews for the administrative candidates. Teacher staffing will take place in the spring, but professional development is ongoing.

### **5.2 Council of Commissioners**

The council of commissioners' report was included in the kit. The highlight of the report was the information about the international computing support vocational education program with India.

### **5.3 Central Parents' Committee**

A report from the CPC was included in the kit. The CPC is looking at addressing financial literacy in the curriculum.

### **5.4 Education Committee**

Barbara Schnider attended the meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, which was held at the PEC Annex at Beurling Academy, there were presentations about the plumbing and heating programs, and High School Enriched entrance exams with different exam models being considered. It was noted that the Wi-Fi project is still in progress and that four research projects were presented. The draft of the Home Schooling Policy has been created. The basic principles from the original policy remain the same.

### **5.5 P.T.U.**

A report for the P.T.U. meeting from February was included in the kit. Carolynn Jones gave a brief report about the meeting held March 19<sup>th</sup>. In her report, it was noted that the oversized class issue will be addressed through an intermediary, and that a suggestion was made to replace the April 7<sup>th</sup> election day by taking back the June 23<sup>rd</sup> pedagogical day. Nominations will also be accepted for the positions in the PTU, as they are elected for two year terms.

### **5.6 P.A.S.A.**

Doug Stewart had nothing to report, however he responded to a question about expected changes to administrations.

### **5.7 Professionals**

The Professionals' report was included in the kit. Ruth Schwarcz provided highlights to the report including new technology for special needs and additional feedback for the kids that wiggle and jiggle presentation. There was an interest expressed in having a supervised child care, but concern was expressed due to the difficulty in providing qualified supervision for the variety of specialized needs.

### **5.8 I.A.S.S.**

No report was available.

### **5.9 Treasurer's Report**

No report was available, but representatives were reminded that 75\$ was allocated for workshop fees, leaving approximately 240\$ remaining after expected expenses are incurred.

### **5.10 Website Administrator's Report**

Jennifer DiMarco was unable to attend the meeting. The website hit and email counts will be forwarded after the meeting.

### **5.11 Workshops Attended**

Nil – A reminder that there will be a workshop on March 30<sup>th</sup> was provided. A report template will be forwarded to the participants.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 "Student Transportation Policy" Consultation (Response due April 28):**

[http://lbpsb.qc.ca/content/consultations/Student\\_Transportation\\_Policy\\_Consultation.pdf](http://lbpsb.qc.ca/content/consultations/Student_Transportation_Policy_Consultation.pdf)

The consultation is now available on the board's website. Feedback was received regarding the student transportation policy consultation but it was discovered that the sections which were believed to refer to special needs in fact referred to special situations. Special needs do not appear to be addressed in the policy. A response will be drafted for the April meeting. Additional input may be sent to Sandra Buckingham for inclusion in the response.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

### **7.1 Parent Evening: A Positive Approach to Challenging Children: An Evening of Introduction to the Program with Dr. Ross Greene. Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-9:00pm. Fees: \$40 per ticket, \$75 for 2 tickets or \$300 for a package of 10 tickets.**

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e8wx43n050e7ebb9&llr=8mu7gtpab>

The introductory session is 1-2 days long, and functions as an introduction to the positive approach program. No immediate decision on participation was made.

### **7.2 A Joyful Learning workshop will be held November 6<sup>th</sup> at a cost of 40\$. Registration begins on May 1<sup>st</sup>. It was noted that this fee could be deferred to 2014-2015 if attendees are willing to wait for reimbursement.**

### **7.3 An ASD workshop will be held April 1<sup>st</sup> free of charge, but participants must register in advance.**

EMSB will be hosting a session on April 22<sup>nd</sup> about sexuality and young adults with Asperger's.

One email was received requesting information about the Reach program and its relation to Special Needs. Cindy Finn provided information relevant to the request.

## **8.0 Varia**

### **8.1 Finance Presentation**

An authorized copy of the finance presentation from Carol Heffernan has been put on the SNAC website.

### **8.2 Technology Presentation**

Michael Chechile's presentation is on the CPC website. A request will be made to post the presentation on the SNAC website as well. Cindy Finn will make the request to ESD.

Various summer camps were discussed, including those hosted by the YM-YWHA, CROM, and the Cavendish CLSC. Shadows provided by AlterGo were also discussed.

*Upon request, the meeting returned to item 4.3 Budget Consultation.*

A request for assistance with sex education for special needs students at the high school level was expressed. It was recommended to speak to the resource team for immediate assistance. Additional support to organize an information session for the school can be provided by a member of the FLASH team through the Student Services Department.

## **9.0 Questions from the Public**

Nil.

## **10.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Sandra Buckingham at 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 in room 219/221 of 1925 Brookdale.