

**Special Needs Advisory Committee**  
Wednesday October 27, 2010  
1925 Brookdale, Dorval

**Minutes**

Ester Maturi called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**In attendance:** Celina Bérubé, Sandra Buckingham, Jennifer DiMarco, Margo Edwards, Christopher Fuzessy, Franca Kesic, Denise Kovalchuk, Ester Maturi, Lorraine Meilleur, Daniel Olivenstein, Sean O'Reilly, Myriam Rabbat, Joanne Simoneau-Polenz, Barbara Schnider, Douglas Stewart, Judy Kelley

**Regrets:** Kiley Philp, Helen Finn

**Observers:** Ovidiu Burlec, Fiona du Jardin

*Minutes recorded by Sean O'Reilly*

*1.0 Presentation – Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec- Cindy Finn*

**2.0 Additions to the Agenda**

- Item 4.2 Alternate to CPC and Representative to Council
- Item 8.1 SNAC website
- Item 8.2 Off Island Zoning
- Item 8.3 McGill Study on Autism

**2.1 Approval of Agenda**

*It was moved by Ester Maturi, seconded by Lorraine Meilleur, and unanimously resolved that the Agenda of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 be approved.*

**3.0 Correction to Minutes of September 29, 2010**

- Correction to error in spelling of Jennifer DiMarco

**3.1 Approval of Minutes of September 29, 2010**

*It was moved by Jennifer DiMarco, seconded by Margo Edwards, and unanimously resolved that the Minutes of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 be approved.*

**4.0 Business Arising**

**4.1 Appointment of CPC representative**

Item deferred to next meeting.

**4.2 Alternate to CPC and Representative to Council**

Item deferred to next meeting

### **4.3 Inclusion of Students with Special Needs (feedback from parent survey)**

Ester Maturi conducted an informal survey of parents to obtain their input on the topic of inclusion of students with special needs. The main points raised by parents were discussed. In particular, parents feel that teachers are at times very overwhelmed and more specialized educators are required.

## **5.0 Reports**

### **5.1 Administration**

Report by Cindy Finn

Major School Change and the re-zoning of the off island sector is currently underway.

The School Board's strategic plan is being enacted by Senior Management, Departments and Schools, in line with the MELS partnership agreements. Planning for induction of new teachers continues. The school board and teachers union (PTU) organize professional development events throughout the year to support new and nearly new teachers. The goal is to have new teachers prepared for the classroom through workshops on a variety of topics.

### **5.2 Council of Commissioners**

Report by Judy Kelley

The Council saw a presentation on Camp Venture at the October meeting. This summer camp was run by members of the Family School Support and Treatment Team (FSSTT) of the LBPSB. The program is designed for children with behavioural difficulties.

The Council also discussed various school renovation projects and a Green Committee with an objective to make our schools more environmentally friendly. An amount of 200,000.00\$ was allocated to the Central Parity Committee to provide additional support to schools for students with special needs.

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

Report by Sandra Buckingham

- See handout provided at meeting.

### **5.4 Education Committee**

Report by Denise Kovalchuk

There is nothing new to report

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

No representative present to provide report.

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

Brief report provided by Myriam Rabbat and Douglas Stewart.

All seems to be going well at the schools in terms of IEP preparation and plans for students with special needs.

## **5.7 Professionals**

Report by Celina Bérubé

Celina Bérubé spoke about the various professional development sessions and resource network meetings that have taken place.

The orientation session for new resource teachers took place on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The Elementary and Secondary Resource Networks are still conducting regular meetings.

The resource network meetings assist resource teachers with the development of various strategies to help students succeed as well as advising on available support.

## **5.8 IASS-**

Report by Margo Edwards.

The Annual General Meeting for all members of IASS will take place on November 26, 2010.

## **5.9 Treasurer's Report**

Report by Denise Kovalchuk

Nothing new to report

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Summit (Integration of Students with Special Needs)**

Joanne Simoneau-Polenz gave a report on the Summit held in Quebec City. After brainstorming sessions a list of recommendations was put forward:

- Early intervention is a key component of success
- I.E.P's should be standardized
- More teacher training is needed
- There should be a guide for parents new to the school system
- Early meetings should take place with the school administration when a student with special needs is to be enrolled.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

Connections and ASD Newsletter distributed

## **8.0 Varia**

### **8.1 SNAC Website**

Sandra Buckingham will speak to David O'Leary regarding the status of the SNAC website.

### **8.2 Off Island Zoning**

As a result of the Major School Change underway, zones off island will be changed.

### **8.3 McGill Study on Autism**

Sandra Buckingham discussed this research project being conducted by McGill. Cindy Finn explained that the researchers have been given permission to solicit

participants through LBPSB schools. The ASD team has directed researchers to specific schools where they might have interest from parents.

## **9.0 Adjournment**

*It was moved by Ester Maturi, seconded by Lorraine Meilleur, and unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

**Date of Next Meeting: November 24, 2010 7:00pm Room 219/221**