

 <p>Special Needs Advisory Committee</p> <p>http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/</p> <p>Email: snac@lbpearson.qc.ca</p>	<p>SNAC Report to CPC, Education Committee and Council of Commissioners</p> <p>From SNAC Meeting October 1, 2014</p> <p>Page 1 of 2</p>
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Introduction

We are very pleased that there are a number of new members on SNAC this year, so introductions were made. An overview of committee procedures was provided, as well as explanations about the roles of the various groups represented on SNAC.

Recording Secretary: SNAC is very fortunate to have the services of a previous SNAC parent take on the role of Recording Secretary on a volunteer basis. SNAC is very grateful for her contribution to the committee.

Priority Projects for 2014-2015: The members reviewed the 2013-2014 SNAC Annual Report:
http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/SNAC-2013-2014-ANNUAL-REPORT_Final.pdf

The members discussed the list of recommendations from last year's committee, and brainstormed regarding priority projects for this year. Top picks included:

- 1) Budget cuts: raise visibility of this serious problem at the government level, through lobbying MELS, working with EPCA, working with CPC and other school board parent committees. Invite Assistant Director General Carol Heffernan to present the budget cuts in detail to SNAC as soon as possible.
- 2) Increase awareness of SNAC throughout the LBPSB S.N. community, by:
 - a. Improve communications to/from the parents. Improve consistency of communications to every school. Consider working with other parent committees to create an email newsletter.
 - b. Colleen Galley, the SNAC PASA representative, will ask Administrators if SNAC may be permitted to include a letter with the IEP documents that are distributed to parents 3 times per year. The aim of the letters would be to advise parents of upcoming workshops, the availability of the IEP Resource Kits that can help parents prepare for IEP meetings, and more.
 - c. It was discussed that SNAC parents can attempt to attend a small number of information evenings that are offered by our CLSC partners and the MacKay center. The aim would be to meet new parents of children with special needs who are considering attending LBPSB schools, and respond to their questions.
 - d. The Student Services Department will arrange to have a couple of SNAC pamphlets distributed to the Resource Teams at every LBPSB school, so that they may refer parents to the resources offered by our committee, including the website [<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca>], and email address for responding to questions [snac@lbpearson.qc.ca] .
- 3) Offer a workshop for parents on the subject of IEPs.
- 4) Work with LBPSB schools to facilitate "sensory breaks" programs at the school-level, for the benefit of both mainstream students as well as students with special needs.

Treasurer's Report: SNAC used almost all funds from last year to finance its activities and projects, with a balance of \$15.97. SNAC's spending was extremely frugal, with parent members donating a coffee machine, coffee pods and snacks for every meeting. SNAC members expressed their appreciation that the committee was allocated \$1500 in funding for this year, versus \$1000 last year.

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PTU Report: Carollynn Jones, LBPSB Resource Teacher, reported that PTU has presented its demands with respect to the contract negotiations, with primarily focus on salary increases. The union has requested a 13% increase over 3 years: 6% for equality with the private sector, 6% cost of living increase, and 1% due to salary.

IASS and the Professionals associations are also in the early stages of contract negotiations, which will take effect in 2015-2020.

CPC Report: 2 written reports were provided by the SNAC representative to CPC summarizing the CPC meetings on June 5, 2014 and September 4th, 2014. The CPC has issued a letter to MELS requesting that the 4 new Parent Commissioners to be elected this year be provided the right to vote at Council and Executive members, along with other Commissioners. A subcommittee is working on preparing ideas in view of increasing School Enrollment. Another subcommittee is working on organizing a Candidate Debate for the upcoming Nov 2 elections. The recent School Board budgets cuts were discussed, and administration was asked to prepare a document outlining these cuts so that parents can better understand their impact.

Correspondence:

- Miriam foundation & Jean Coutu working together to clear ASD/ID diagnosis waiting lists:
<http://www.montrealgazette.com/health/Donation+should+help+clear+autism+diagnosis+wait+list+Miriam+Foundation+says/10226178/story.html>
- Le projet de maison de famille va bon train: WIAIH is moving forward with its plans to build a new center to support families in Ste Genevieve [page 8 in the link below]
<http://www.pressdisplay.com/pressdisplay/viewer.aspx>
- The CLSC Lac-St-Louis is starting a new ASD Parent Support Group, the last Thursday of the month, beginning Oct 20, 2014. Registration is required: Call Luhan Wahbeh 514-697-4111 ext 1548 or Ravneet Mudhar 514-626-2572 ext 3824
- LBPSB Grade 9 students at Riverdale H.S. have written and published a novel called "Hate Mail" about bullying of a student with Autism. Visit Babar books in Pointe Claire to purchase.

Next SNAC Meeting Oct 22nd: Special Presentation: "Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec". The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 22, 2013 at 7pm at the school board, Room 219/221, where there will be a special presentation by Cindy Finn, Director of Student Services: "Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec". **All parents of children with special needs are invited to attend as guests.**

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Hillgartner, Chairperson, LBPSB Special Needs Advisory Committee 2014-2015

Sandra Buckingham, LBPSB Parent Commissioner for Special Needs 2014-2016