

 <p>Special Needs Advisory Committee</p> <p>http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/</p> <p>Email: snac@lbpearson.qc.ca</p>	<p>SNAC Report to the Council of Commissioners, Central Parents' and Education Committees</p> <p>From SNAC Meeting January 21, 2015</p> <p>Page 1 of 2</p>
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Special Presentation to SNAC—“The LBPSB Budget Allocation Process”: Assistant Director General Carol Heffernan spoke to SNAC about the school board budgeting process, with a particular emphasis on funding for students with special needs. It is a significant challenge for the School Board to maintain the desired level of service and support to students in the classrooms in light of the significant “Recurring Negative Adjustments” and recent additional budget cuts from MELS. SNAC would like to thank Ms. Heffernan for her informative presentation.

Parent Workshop on IEPs: “Helping Students Achieve Success”: SNAC hosted a presentation for parents on January 15, 2015, to discuss the IEP Process at LBPSB. SNAC would like to thank the committee members who worked so diligently to make this presentation possible. Special thanks to our presenters of the evening Celina Bérubé and Ruth Schwarcz, SSD Special Needs Consultants, as well as to Jim Hendry for webcasting the event. A link to a video archive of the event as well as the accompanying Powerpoint Presentation will be made available on the SNAC website shortly, for the benefit of those parents who were unable to attend. The results of a survey that was distributed to the attendees are being compiled, and will be shared at the next SNAC meeting. It was noted that the attendees particularly enjoyed the Q&A session at the end, so the committee recommends extending the Q&A for future sessions.

Follow-up on Discussion Topic: Tutoring of Students on School Premises after School Hours: It was initially brought to the committee’s attention in November that in some schools, students who are struggling with various subjects have had tutors work with them during daycare hours after school, on school premises. LBPSB Administration is concerned about this practice, and would like to issue a request that school principals no longer allow this practice. A lively discussion ensued about the benefits of tutoring for students in need, versus potential conflicts of interest and/or security/insurance concerns. Since SNAC does not have an in-person meeting in December, SNAC members were invited to continue the discussion via email, in an effort to suggest potential solutions that may address the concerns of administration, while at the same time enabling our most vulnerable students to continue to have access to tutoring services on school grounds after school. A document summarizing all of the committee member suggestions was compiled and presented to the committee; however several members felt that it needed to be shortened prior to presentation to administration. A subcommittee has been struck to prepare a 3rd revision of the summary document. It was also suggested that SNAC continue to collaborate with CPC to discuss potential solutions to this issue.

Committee Finances and Potential Projects: The committee reviewed its current finances based on this year’s allocation of \$1500, and listed additional expected expenses for the remainder of the year based on the committee’s activities in previous years. Based on our projections, the committee may have just enough funds left to print a limited number of IEP Resource Kits that can be sent to Resource Teams in all schools, as well as given to families of children with Special Needs who are new to the School Board, or who are newly identified. The committee will investigate the costs and feasibility of this project.

It was also suggested that the committee consider offering another workshop for parents in the Spring, perhaps on the topic of “Transitioning to High School for Students with Special Needs”. The committee will discuss this further, as it will depend on the availability of speakers and committee member volunteers.

Inter-Board Special Needs Advisory Committee Meeting: EPCA has agreed to facilitate a meeting in February between the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Parent Commissioners for Special Needs for all of the English School Boards in Quebec. Thus far, LBPSB, SWLSB, EMSB, Central Quebec and Eastern Townships School Boards have confirmed their attendance. SNAC participated in a similar event 4 years ago, and is very excited to share information with our counterparts once again. SNAC members were asked to submit any suggested topics of discussion to the Chair. The committee approved expenses of \$100 related to this event.



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Correspondence:

- Concordia University is recruiting mothers of adolescents with and without special needs to participate in a study about the transition from high school to adulthood. Remuneration is \$175.
http://psychology.concordia.ca/family/currentstudies_new.html
For more information, contact parents.fwb@concordia.ca
- The annual **Autism in Motion Conference** will take place on March 22, 2015.
<http://www.mtlautisminmotion.com/2015-conference-and-exhibit/>
The committee approved expenses of \$105 to send 3 members to the event, who will complete a written report to share with the team.

Next Meeting: The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7pm at the school board, upstairs in room 219/221. **All parents of children with special needs are invited to attend as guests, and may ask questions during the Q&A period.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

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