

## Special Needs Advisory Committee

Wednesday January 26, 2011

1925 Brookdale, Dorval

### Minutes

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

**In attendance:** Celina Berubé, Sandra Buckingham, Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn, Christopher Fuzessy, Judy Kelley, Denise Kovalchuk, Ester Maturi, Sean O'Reilley, Kiley Philp, Myriam Rabbat, Barbara Schnider

**Regrets:** Margo Edwards, Helen Finn, Franca Kesic, Daniel Olivenstein, Joanne Simoneau-Polenz, Douglas Stewart

**Observers:** Oviduc Burlec, Patricia Pigeon

*Minutes recorded by Sean O'Reilley*

#### 1.0 Additions to the Agenda

- **Item 3.3 Bullying and Special Needs**
- **Item 7.1 Discussion on delivery of services to students with special needs (issue raised during Major School Change discussions)**
- **Item 7.2 SNAC Meeting Date for May**

#### 1.1 Approval of Agenda

*It was moved by Ester Maturi, seconded by Cindy Finn, and unanimously resolved that the Agenda of January 26, 2011 be approved.*

#### 2.0 Correction to Minutes of November 24, 2010

- No corrections

#### 2.1 Approval of Minutes of November 24, 2010

*It was moved by Ester Maturi, seconded by Cindy Finn, and unanimously resolved that the Minutes of November 24, 2011 be approved.*

#### 3.0 Business Arising

##### 3.1 Appointment of Representative to Council

Item Deferred- no decision as yet

##### 3.2 SNAC Website – follow up

Sandra Buckingham has been working with the I.S. Department to see what has been done so far. Templates are in place and the information present regarding meeting dates and member listings needs to be updated. Decisions must now be made regarding content. Jennifer DiMarco and Kiley Philp have volunteered to work on this project.

### **3.3 Bullying and Special Needs**

Patricia Pigeon (guest) spoke of the need to sensitize children to their fellow students with special needs. Question was raised about the need for a policy on bullying and it was pointed out that aggressive incidents are addressed in the Safe and Caring Schools policy and in schools' codes of conduct. Discussion ensued about bullying and efforts at the school level to address this issue, particularly for students with special needs. Parents were encouraged to bring any concerns to their child's principal.

## **4.0 Reports**

### **4.1 Administration**

Report by Cindy Finn.

The administration is preparing for next year as revision week will be January 31-February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Parents of children with special needs signal their child's needs to the school board at the time of registration. Student Services professionals then follow up so that planning preparations can be made to welcome the student and ensure that interventions are put into place in a timely manner.

MELS has received the paperwork to determine funding for students with various codes. The board now has to wait to see if MELS will provide funding for all the students with codes submitted.

Administrative staffing is also underway with appointments expected by the end of April.

### **4.2 Council of Commissioners**

Report by Judy Kelley

Commissioners have received an update from administration on continued efforts to improve services to support students with special needs. This report is in response to recommendations that were adopted by Council in April 2010.

Requests for various research projects were also reviewed. The commissioners are also looking at ways to solicit feedback on the effectiveness of all policies

### **4.3 Central Parents' Committee**

Written report submitted by Sandra Buckingham was reviewed and questions answered.

Items of note included a change in the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CPC and revision of the Nutrition Policy.

### **4.4 Education Committee**

Report by Denise Kovalchuk

The "Status Report on Proposed Actions to Support Students with Special Needs" was circulated to the group. This report was presented at Education Committee.

#### **4.5 P.T.U.- NO REPRESENTATIVE**

#### **4.6 P.A.S.A.-**

Myriam Rabbat – nothing new to report.

#### **4.7 Professionals**

Report by Celina Berubé

As promised, Celina presented the committee with a list of suggested readings on the topic of gender differences.

-Special Needs and Autism Consultants collaborated and presented a workshop at NET: Independent Activity Schedules to Elementary Resource Teachers. The focus of the workshop was to highlight the importance in developing independence skills for our high needs students, and to stress the importance of visuals.

-Dr. Steven Shaw presented to Elementary Resource Teachers, High School Resource teachers and Special Ed Techs. The topic was: Promoting Academic resilience for Students at High Risk for Academic Failure.

-SNNAP was held at LBPSB on Dec. 2

-On Dec. 3rd we had our SET (Special Ed Tech Meeting), which took place at Lindsay Place High school. In addition to touring the school with a focus on the life skills room and resource rooms, we introduced the techs to the High School Resource Portal. We also shared French resources, websites, etc..

#### **4.8 IAASS-**

Following report submitted by Margo Edwards by email:

Our Union is getting ready to sign the collective agreement. There is going to be some updates with pay equity (as promised pay equity has to be maintained). Preparations are being made to hold a meeting with all the union reps to update them on the agreement once it is signed.

#### **4.9 Treasurer's Report**

Report by Denise Kovalchuk (nothing new to report)

### **5.0 New Business**

#### **5.1 Budget Consultation (responses due March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011)**

The group has asked Cindy Finn to invite Carol Heffernan, Director of Finance to make a presentation next month on budgeting to assist the group in responding to the consultation.

#### **5.2 Digital Citizenship Project (appointment of SNAC representative)**

Ester Maturi will contact Laura Dery (CPC Chairperson) and inquire as to the level of commitment required from the SNAC representative. i.e. frequency of meetings etc..

#### **5.3 Confidentiality of SNAC Parent Members Regarding Public Documents**

Ester Maturi asked the members if any of them objected or were uncomfortable with having their names listed as a parent of a child with special needs. All present were comfortable with this and had no objections.

## **6.0 Correspondence**

**6.1** Summer Camp flyer distributed (trails of summer)

**6.2** Connections Newsletter distributed

**6.3** WIAIH Flyer for upcoming Autism Fair distributed by email

## **7.0 Varia**

### **7.1 Delivery of Services to Students with Special Needs**

This topic was raised during Major School Change discussions so committee members were interested to know if anything new is happening concerning this dossier.

Discussions and proposals have been made and currently there is involvement at the Ministry of Education level. It is difficult to find one model that fits all students and talks are ongoing.

### **7.2 SNAC Meeting Date for May**

Tentative change in the meeting date for May from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> (to be confirmed)

## **8.0 Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

**Date of Next Meeting: February 23, 2011 7:00pm Room 219/221**