



May 20, 2015

Chairman of the Council of Commissioners, and Director General
Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925 Brookdale Avenue
Dorval, QC
H9P 2Y7

Subject: Request for Increased Representation of Parents of Students with Special Needs,
by Establishing a Special Needs Parent Representative on the Governing Board
of Every School and Center

Dear Sir and Madam,

The Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) recognizes the importance of parents of students with special needs collaborating with other stakeholders within the school board, for the benefit of all students. However, the parents of students with special needs feel the need to increase their representation within the school board.

To that end, SNAC recommends that a position be reserved on every Governing Board for a parent of a student with an IEP. This will increase parental input specific to the special needs community at the Governing Board of every school and center. It will also allow for improved communication between the special needs communities at every school and SNAC.

SNAC requests that the Council of Commissioners put forth and approve a Resolution to recommend that Administration at every school and center present this new position to their parent populations as part of the "GB Nomination Kit" that is sent at the beginning of the school year, and encourage the attendees at the school's Annual General Meeting to put forth a motion to create this new position.

SNAC recognizes and is respectful of the fact that some parents of students with special needs prefer to maintain confidentiality. In that case, those parents are welcome to present their nominations for regular parent positions on Governing Board.

However, for those parents of students with special needs who would be willing to openly act as a special needs representative at their school, SNAC would like to encourage those parents to put forth their nomination for this position in writing, or in person at the Annual General Meeting, at the parent's option.

Should no parents of students with special needs be nominated, or, if the motion to establish this position is not approved, it is understood that the regular parent nomination process will proceed.

SNAC requests that the Council of Commissioners recommend that this change to the Composition of the Governing Boards take effect as of the next school year, 2015-2016.

Thank-you for your consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,

Brett Hillgartner

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

CC: Special Needs Advisory Committee, LBPSB
Central Parents' Committee, LBPSB
Council of Commissioners
C. Heffernan and S. Balleine, Assistant Directors General
F. Hamel, Director of the Secretariat and Legal Services