

 <p><b>Special Needs Advisory Committee</b></p> <p><a href="http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/">http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:snac@lbpearson.qc.ca">snac@lbpearson.qc.ca</a></p>	<p><b>SNAC Report to the Council of Commissioners, Parents' Committees and Education Committees</b></p> <p><b>From SNAC Meeting May 20, 2015</b></p> <p><b>Page 1 of 2</b></p>
--	--

**Special Presentation from John Donnelly, President of Pearson Teachers' Union:** In light of the current MELS budget compressions, and the current negotiations for the Teachers Collective Agreement, Mr. Donnelly shared with SNAC the perspective and concerns of the teachers with respect to potential changes to services provided to students with special needs. Mr. Donnelly responded to questions at the end of his presentation.

**Major School Change (MSC) Consultation: update:** The Special Needs Parent Commissioner attended and provided an update on the MSC meeting that was hosted by Greendale on May 14, 2015, with attendance from 4 other neighbouring schools: St Anthony, St Charles, Thorndale and Wilder Penfield. Content from the Q&A session will be posted on the LBPSB MSC website.

SNAC continues to work on brainstorming ideas for its MSC Brief. A special SNAC meeting has been called for June 2 to discuss the brief, and prepare a list of outstanding questions or additional information to be requested from Administration in order to prepare informed suggestions during the MSC process.

**IEP Resource Kits:** A new printing of 500 IEP Resource Kits is in process. SNAC is grateful for the support of the LIFE students who will assemble the contents of the package and insert them into blank envelopes. It is expected that the Kits will be ready before the end of this school year, and ready for distribution to school Resource teams at the start of the next school year.

**SNAC AGM Posters:** SNAC has approved printing posters to advertise the SNAC AGM on September 16, 2015, when the SNAC parent members for 2015-2016 will be elected. 2 posters will be sent to every school. In-school Administrators will be provided with a PDF version of the poster, and will be requested to distribute it to their special needs parent population.

**Election Process of SNAC Parent Members and the Special Needs Parent Commissioner:** Further to recent discussions at CPC and SNAC, SNAC has examined the Education Act with regard to the Election Process for SNAC Parent Members and the Special Needs Parent Commissioner (SNPC). SNAC members discussed that the LBPSB long standing practice of electing SNAC Parent Members at the Annual AGM should continue so that the special needs parent population is able to select their own representatives, with CPC "approval" of these elected members as presented. For the same reason, SNAC also discussed that the SNPC should be elected by the SNAC parent members. Finally, SNAC members felt that the CPC should establish the SNPC as a full voting member of CPC, in order to increase the representation of the voice of parents of students with special needs. SNAC is preparing a letter to the CPC Executive in this regard.

**QESEC Meeting Update:** Further to the April 19, 2015 QESEC meeting, the group will be preparing a letter to MELS to protest insufficient funding provided to school boards to support the Integration of Students with Special Needs into regular classrooms. It is well known that all school boards are severely underfunded in this area. In addition, the group will prepare a letter to MELS with a list of recommended changes to the Education Act, pertaining to the Election procedures of parent members of the Special Needs Advisory Committees and the Special Needs Parent Commissioners.

**Endorsement of QESEC:** SNAC members approved a letter of endorsement of QESEC, a group of Special Needs Parent Commissioners and the Executives of the Special Needs Advisory Committees of the Quebec English School Boards, who have united to present a unified voice to MELS and share best practices among the Special Needs parent communities. SNAC supports QESEC's efforts to work in the spirit of collaboration to support our most vulnerable students.

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/132SNACLettertoEPCA-SupportQESECMay2015.pdf>

 <p><b>Special Needs Advisory Committee</b></p> <p><a href="http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/">http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/</a></p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:snac@lbpearson.qc.ca">snac@lbpearson.qc.ca</a></p>	<p><b>SNAC Report to the Council of Commissioners, Parents' Committees and Education Committees</b></p> <p><b>From SNAC Meeting May 20, 2015</b></p> <p><b>Page 2 of 2</b></p>
--	--

**Recommendation to Increase Representation of Parents with Special Needs on Governing Boards**

SNAC has approved a letter to Council and Administration to recommend that a position be established 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.

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/133SNACLettertoCouncil-SNRepsonGBMay2015-3.pdf>

**Follow-up on Discussion Topic: Tutoring of Students on School Premises after School Hours:** Further to multiple discussions throughout the year, SNAC has provided a list of suggestions and ideas to the committee's Administrative Liaison pertaining to the practice of Tutoring of Students on school premises during Daycare hours.

**Island of Montreal Parents' Committee Group:** A group of Parents' Committees has been formed between the English and French School Boards of Montreal and Laval. Members include the Chairs of the Central Parents' Committees, the Chairs of the Special Needs Advisory Committees, and the Special Needs Parent Commissioners of the English and French School Boards, as well as other Executive members of these committees. The main goal of this group is to protest against MELS Budget Cuts. LBPSB currently has "observer" status on this committee. Two current initiatives that LBPSB is participating in include a Petition to be posted with the Assemblée Nationale, and sample letters that Governing Boards can send to their local MNAs.

**Administration Report:** Cindy Finn informed SNAC about a new Ministry program for students aged 6-15 with moderate-severe intellectual disabilities, known as "CASP": a Competency-based Approach to Social Participation. This program focuses on helping students learn critical and practical skills in order to meaningfully participate in school, home and community life. CASP will be piloted in 2015-2016, with full implementation expected in 2016-2017. For more information: [http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/references/publications/resultats-de-la-recherche/detail/article/casp-education-program-a-competency-based-approach-to-social-participation/?tx\\_ttnews%5Blang%5D=1](http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/references/publications/resultats-de-la-recherche/detail/article/casp-education-program-a-competency-based-approach-to-social-participation/?tx_ttnews%5Blang%5D=1)

**Questions from the Public:**

A parent visitor expressed concern that her school website did not have a link to the SNAC website, and that parents at her school did not receive information from SNAC. SNAC's Administrative Liaison will make this request via the Regional Directors of Schools.

**Next Meeting:** The last SNAC meeting of this year will take place on **Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 7pm** at the school board, **a special meeting to discuss the SNAC Brief for MSC**. 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