

Special Needs Advisory Committee

Wednesday March 30, 2011

1925 Brookdale, Dorval

Minutes

Ester Maturi called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m.

The meeting was preceded by a presentation delivered by Michael Canuel and Joseph Urovitch from LEARN Quebec. LEARN offers educational resources free of charge to the English community (teachers, parents, students, professionals, administrators)

In attendance: Jennifer DiMarco, Margo Edwards, Cindy Finn, Christopher Fuzessy, Judy Kelley, Ester Maturi, Daniel Olivenstein, Kiley Philp, Myriam Rabbat, Barbara Schnider, Douglas Stewart

Regrets: Celina Bérubé, Sandra Buckingham, Helen Finn, Denise Kovalchuk, Evelyn Lockett, Sean O'Reilly, Joanne Simoneau-Polenz

Observers: Stanley Schulman, Nathan Schulman, Fiona du Jardin, Helen Dicso

Minutes recorded by Barbara Schnider

1.0 Additions to the Agenda

-None

1.1 Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Jennifer DiMarco, seconded by Kiley Philp, and unanimously resolved that the Agenda of March 30th, 2011 be approved.

2.0 Correction to Minutes of February 23, 2011

-No Corrections

2.1 Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2011

It was moved by Jennifer DiMarco, seconded by Ester Maturi, and unanimously resolved that the Minutes of February 23, 2011 be approved.

3.0 Business Arising

3.1 Budget Consultation Response

The committee reviewed the budget consultation response and made necessary corrections to the text. It was also decided to include suggestions as per the minutes of the February 23, 2011 SNAC meeting.

It was moved by Jennifer DiMarco, seconded by Barbara Schnider, and unanimously resolved to approve the 2011-2012 Budget Consultation Response.

3.2 SNAC Meeting Date for May (May 18th)

It has been proposed to hold the final SNAC meeting on June 1st. This date will be confirmed at the April meeting.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Administration

Report by Cindy Finn

The administrative staffing process is underway with potential candidates going through the interview process. Announcements concerning the Administrative staff should be made at the council meeting to be held at the end of April.

Teacher staffing for the upcoming school year is also underway with teachers informing human resources if they wish to request a transfer. Over 166 new teacher candidates were interviewed recently and questions regarding special needs were included in the interviews. Recently the government (MELS) provided additional funding to support student success. LBPSB obtained 3 additional posts due to this funding with 1 post allocated to the Adult/Voc Ed sector and 2 additional posts for Student Services. Of the Student Services posts, one will be a Consultant for Special Needs and the other will be that of a Youth Outreach Consultant to work with the Secondary Schools sector.

4.2 Council of Commissioners

Report by Daniel Olivenstein

The Digital Internet policy will be going out for consultation with responses due in June.

The International Language Center programs are to be expanded. Both buildings utilized by the Center, in Dorval and Pointe-Claire, are to be enhanced. All costs incurred by this program are offset by revenues generated.

Council approved the procedure for replacement of commissioners.

4.3 Central Parents' Committee

Written report distributed at meeting.

4.4 Education Committee

No report – March meeting postponed to beginning of April due to inclement weather.

4.5 P.T.U.- NO REPRESENTATIVE

4.6 P.A.S.A.-

Nothing to report

4.7 Professionals

No report

4.8 IASS-

Report by Margo Edwards.

Special Education Technicians have sent a letter to the union requesting to have their hours increased from 25 hours per week to 30 hours per week. The members have the support of the union executive and the request will be forwarded to the school board for consideration.

4.9 Treasurer's Report

No report

5.0 New Business

5.1 SNAC Logo

It was moved by Jennifer DiMarco, seconded by Ester Maturi, and unanimously resolved that the SNAC logo featured on the website be adopted as the official logo of the Special Needs Advisory Committee.

5.2 SNAC Website

Much positive feedback has been received regarding the SNAC website. A link will be added for upcoming conferences of interest to parents. Committee members are encouraged to send information and suggestions to Jennifer DiMarco regarding additional links and information for the site.

It was agreed that each year the members of SNAC would be asked if they wish to have their names listed on the site.

Ideally SNAC would like to have to have a SNAC Logo Hyperlink on each school website. Cindy Finn will share this request at an Administration Group meeting with the Director General and Directors of Schools.

Kiley Philp will draft a letter to parents to publicize the SNAC website.

Discussions regarding the role of the student ombudsman ensued. On their website SNAC may add information for parents on the role of the ombudsman although this information is also on the board's website. It was suggested that SNAC consider inviting a guest to speak next year for further information and clarification concerning the role of the ombudsman and the process.

5.3 SNAC Report to Region

A question arose about SNAC reporting at Regional Parents' Meetings. Jennifer DiMarco attended a Region 1 meeting and the agenda always deferred the SNAC report to region to the next meeting. Cindy Finn will inquire about the reporting process to regions.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Autism Speaks Walk in Montreal

The walk is scheduled for June 19th, 2011 at the Stade Uniprix. The event goal is 200,000\$.

6.2 Helen Dicso – Flyers-All-Starz Cheerleading Special Needs Team

Helen Dicso was present and spoke about her cheerleading squad. Formed 5 years ago the squad was the first for individuals with special needs. High school students who may require community service hours can help out with the squad. Jennifer DiMarco put a link for the team on the SNAC site and Margo Edwards will share information to the high schools.

7.0 Varia

8.0 Adjournment

It was moved by Ester Maturi, seconded by Margo Edwards, and unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Date of Next Meeting: April 27th, 2011 7:00pm Room 219/221