

Special Needs Advisory Committee *Lester B. Pearson School Board*

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – FEBRUARY 17th, 2016

Held at the Lester B. Pearson School Board, 1925 Brookdale, Dorval, Room 219/221.

In Attendance: Marie-Eve Claude (S.S.D.), Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn (S.S.D.), Laurie Kathleen Fox, Robert Gilmartin (I.A.S.S.), Brett Hillgartner, Maureen Hunt (P.E.P.), Franca Kesic (W.I.A.I.H.), Samantha Marco, Dianna Martire (P.A.S.A.), Christine McLean, Danny Olivenstein (Commissioner), Erik Olsthoom (S.S.D.) Kiley Philp, Kathy Robinson, and Barbara Schnider.

Regrets: Angela Berryman, Sandra Buckingham, Maria Colavita, Mary-Ann Davis (Commissioner), Donnalynn Rainey, Arlene Tennant (P.T.U.), and Cheryl Vienneau.

Recording Secretary: Laurie Kathleen Fox

Observers: Shannon Labadie and Silvy Giuliano.

Brett Hillgartner called the meeting to order at 7:06.

1.0 Special Presentation: LBPSB Budget Allocation Process

Carol Heffernan, LBPSB Assistant Director General, and France Daoust, LBPSB Director of Finance, attended the SNAC meeting to deliver a special budget presentation to the committee. It was noted that the LBPSB is in deficit of \$1.6 million for the 2015-2016 school year, and they are expected by MEESR to balance the budget for 2016-2017. Ms. Heffernan explained that 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 the MEESR. Of particular interest to SNAC, there was an additional cut to special needs funding of \$764,874.00 for this year. Moreover, the grant that supports integration was cut from \$886,000.00 from the previous year to \$348,000.00 for this academic year. These cuts will have ramifications for students with special needs and the types of supports they receive.

2.0 Confirmation of Quorum: establish voting rights to Alternate members as required.

(SNAC1516-02.1) With Angela Berryman's absence, voting rights were accorded to Barbara Schnider, as were Kathy Robinson with Sandra Buckingham's absence. Quorum confirmed.

3.0 Additions to Agenda

There was a request by Brett Hillgartner to add the following to the agenda:

Section 6.5: Update in Emergency Preparedness

Section 9.1: Correspondence – email from a parent

3.1 Approval of the Agenda

(SNAC1516-02.2) The agenda was approved with above mentioned changes by Samantha Marco, and seconded by Jennifer DiMarco.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

4.0 Corrections to the Minutes of January 20th, 2016

4.1 Approval of the Minutes of January 20th, 2016

(SNAC1516-02.3) Robert Gilmartin approved the minutes, seconded by Kiley Philp, and consequently, unanimously approved.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

5.0 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public at this time. However, a SNAC parent member inquired whether or not a member of a school governing board could resign their post from GB.

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 MSC: Transition document for Council and Administration

On November 17th, 2015, three SNAC members participated in the MSC Public Hearing in Verdun. One of the primary recommendations of SNAC was that the school board commit to preparing a written plan of action, with input from parents and students concerned, to help with transitions for those students with special needs that are affected by the MSC process. SNAC has finalized the document and the vote of approval was ratified at the meeting. The document has sent it to Council for its consideration.

Please view the SNAC Recommendations for MSC Transition Plans here:
<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/173SNACtransitionplanrecommendations2016.pdf>

6.2 Follow-up on SNAC IEP Workshop of February 2nd, 2016

Jennifer DiMarco reported on the IEP workshop entitled “An IEP Journey: A Parent to Parent Perspective,” that was held on February 2nd. Jennifer reported that there were over 70 participants from a variety of schools throughout the board attended. Moreover, the organizing committee received a great deal of positive feedback from the parents who attended the session. As a follow-up, an “IEP Questions & Answers” document will be posted on the SNAC website after March break to share all of the information that was explored in the different sessions. SNAC is looking into the possibility of holding a follow-up meeting for parents in April or May.

6.3 Presentation to SNAC on "Cooking with Autonomy"

Brett Hillgartner reported that half of the SNAC members were interested in a brief presentation on the new "Cooking with Autonomy" program that is offered by LBPSB. It will be held during one of the remaining SNAC meetings, preferable not on the last one. The presentation will last approximately 20 minutes, with 5-10 minutes allotted for questions and answers. Marie-Eve Claude will look into availability and report back to the committee.

6.4 Bill 86

SNAC members have been directed to the CPC website for further information regarding the Bill 86. Parent Sessions that have been offered by CPC.

6.5 Update on Emergency Preparedness

During the last meeting, Christine McLean brought a question about the Emergency Preparedness protocol with regard to lock-down procedures. During a Governing Board meeting it was brought to Christine's attention that there was no procedure for special needs students who may be caught in the washrooms at the time of a lock down. Dr. Cindy Finn elaborated that lock-down procedures depends on the particulars of the students within the school. This issue should be addressed and principals are to look in to this procedure within their respective schools.

7.0 New Business

7.1 LBPSB Budget Consultation (due March 31st, 2016)

SNAC will review the 2016-2017 Budget Consultation documents and provide a response by the March 31st deadline.

8.0 Standing Reports

8.1 SNAC Report to CPC, Education, and Council

The Report was included in the kit.

8.2 Administration

The Administration Report was provided in the kit. Of notable interest, Dr. Cindy Finn reported the following:

- Elementary schools held Open Houses during the month of January. Re-registration and new registrations for the 2016-2017 academic years have taken place. Student Services has activated its registration procedures for incoming students with known or suspected special needs.
- All Departments at Head Office are working to support the implementation of MSC decisions taken last December/January. This includes meetings with affected schools and community partners.

- On January 21st, there was a session on Bill 86 with LBPSB school and centre administrators. It was a productive session with good discussion and many interesting questions.
- On February 8-9, over 150 LBPSB personnel attended the annual LCEEQ conference, a PD event for teachers, professionals and administrators. The theme of this year's event was Embracing Diversity and Support Equity. LCEEQ brings together English educators from across the province at all levels and sectors.

8.3 Council of Commissioners

A detailed report was provided in the kit. Danny Olivenstein reported the following:

Request for reconsideration-MSL Lakeside Academy

Commissioner Eric Bender requested a year-long extension to the decision to close Lakeside based on new information regarding the IB program and new Municipal and Federal input. The issue was rigorously debated and the vote was 9-4 to accept the extension. The Council will review the decision next December to see if the program is viable.

Request for reconsideration-MSL Riverdale Elementary

Commissioner Noel Burke requested a year-long extension to the decision to close Riverdale based on new information regarding a request for an IB program as well as a Francais Plus program and new Municipal and Federal input. The issue was rigorously debated and the vote was 9-4 to accept the extension. The Council will review the decision next December to see if the program is viable.

The Education Committee presented its Annual Report

T. Rhymes presented the LBPSB 2014-15 Annual Report. He reviewed all the Information and discussed the 5 goals as well as their objectives. He then focused on the prime targets and reviewed the results.

Facilities and Security Committee

B. Côté informed the Committee that all of the reports on air quality had been received before the Christmas break and that they are being reviewed by the School Board.

Central Students Report

Council viewed the film Silent Majority, we thought that it was very interesting, informative and provided a very relevant message. The Council thought it would be ideal to show at their anti-bullying assembly.

8.4 Special Needs Parent Commissioner Report

No report was provided.

8.5 Central Parents' Committee

Two detailed reports were provided in the kit.

8.6 Education Committee

Barbara Schnider provided a detailed report for the kit.

8.7 QESEC

QESEC did not have a meeting and there is nothing new to report.

8.8 P.T.U.

With Arlene Tennant's absence, no report was provided this month. However, it was reported that in regards to contract negotiations, the PTU announced that work- to-rule pressure tactics have been rescinded.

8.9 P.A.S.A

Diana Martire provided a report for P.A.S.A in the kit.

8.10 Professionals

Maureen Hunt had nothing new to report.

8.11 I.A.S.S

Robert Gilmartin had no news to report.

8.12 Treasurer's Report

With Donnalynn Rainey's absence, no new financials were reported.

8.13 Website Administrator's Report

Jennifer DiMarco advised the committee there were 637 hits to the SNAC Website in the last month. Additionally, there were also 49 views of the archived webcasts of previous parent workshops offered by SNAC.

8.14 Workshops Attended

Jennifer DiMarco and Maureen Hunt attended a workshop by Richard (Rick) Lavoie at the LCEEQ Conference entitled, "On the Waterbed." In this workshop, Rick Lavoie discusses the impact of Learning Disabilities on the family, and parallels it to being on a waterbed. Lavoie specified that current research indicates that parents experience a wide variety of intense and conflicting emotions when endeavoring to deal with children who learn differently. Lavoie emphasized that Educators and parents should work together on these issues with a spirit of sensitivity, cooperation, and common sense of purpose. In order to create such an environment, parents, educators, and other professionals must gain an understanding of and sensitivity toward

each other's life experiences. This understanding is crucial in order to communicate effectively to better understand and help a child who struggles in school.

9.0 Correspondence

9.1 Email from a parent to SNAC

SNAC received an email from a parent inquiring if both parents can provide input to an IEP even in the case where only one parent has custody. Dr. Cindy Finn informed the committee about the difference between *custody* versus *parental rights*. As long as the parent's *parental rights* have not been removed from the court, then the parent can request to be informed about IEPs and report cards. The parent can also meet with school staff regarding their child. It was noted that these situations can be a little tricky if both parents want different things for their child.

10.0 Varia

None.

11.0 Questions from the Public

None.

12.0 Adjournment

(SNAC1516-02.4) Upon a motion set by Jennifer DiMarco, then seconded by Robert Gilmartin, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

***The next meeting will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, March 16th, 2016
in room 219/221, 1925 Brookdale, Dorval***

