

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – MARCH 16th, 2016

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

In Attendance: Angela Berryman, Marie-Eve Claude (S.S.D.), Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn (S.S.D.), Robert Gilmartin (I.A.S.S.), Maureen Hunt (P.E.P.), Samantha Marco, Christine McLean, Danny Olivenstein (Commissioner), Erik Olsthoorn (S.S.D.) Kiley Philp, Donnalynn Rainey, Kathy Robinson, Barbara Schnider, Arlene Tennant (P.T.U.), and Cheryl Vienneau.

Regrets: Sandra Buckingham, Maria Colavita, Mary Ann Davis (Commissioner), Brett Hillgartner, Franca Kesic (W.I.A.I.H.), and Dianna Martire (P.A.S.A.).

Recording Secretary: Laurie Kathleen Fox

Observers: Shannon Labadie

Angela Berryman called the meeting to order at 7:07.

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

(SNAC1516-3.1) With Brett Hillgartner's absence, voting rights were accorded to Barbara Schnider, as were Kathy Robinson with Sandra Buckingham's absence. Moreover, voting rights were accorded to Laurie Fox until Samantha Marco's arrival.

Quorum confirmed.

2.0 Additions to Agenda

There was a request by Angela Berryman to add the following to the agenda:

Section 8.2: Parent Conference

Section 8.3: Youth Conference

2.1 Approval of the Agenda

(SNAC1516-3.2) The agenda was approved with above mentioned changes by Jennifer DiMarco, seconded by Robert Gilmartin, and approved by all.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

3.0 Corrections to the Minutes of February 17th, 2016

The following corrections are to be implemented:

1. Under section 8.3: Commissioner's Report, it should read, RIVERDALE and not Riverside.
2. Under section 6.4: The title should read Bill 86, and not Bill 68.

3.1 Approval of the Minutes of February 17th, 2016

(SNAC1516-3.3) Jennifer DiMarco approved the minutes, seconded by Kathy Robinson, and consequently, unanimously approved.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

Samantha Marco arrived at 7:12 during this discussion. As a result, voting rights were relinquished from Laurie Fox.

4.0 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public at this time.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 Follow-up on SNAC IEP workshop - FAQ document

SNAC hosted an IEP workshop entitled “*An IEP Journey: A Parent to Parent Perspective*” on February 2nd with over 70 participants from a variety of schools throughout the board in attendance. As follow-up, an “IEP Questions & Answers” document was created and is now available on the SNAC website. We encourage parents to refer to this document when they have questions about the IEP process, or would like to review some tips and tricks:

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/177SNACParenttoParentIEPInformationExchangeQA.pdf>

The possibility of a follow-up workshop was then discussed at length. It was decided that a possible Support Group format workshop at take place at WIAIH, and not be organized by SNAC since this does not align with SNAC’s mandate.

5.2 LBPSB Budget Consultation (Due March 31st, 2016)

A formal vote was taken to approve the SNAC response to the LBPSB.

(SNAC1516-3.4) Samantha Marco, seconded by Kiley Philp, and unanimously approved by all, the SNAC response to the LBPSB was therefore approved and will be submitted by March 31, 2016. The response can be found by clicking the following link:

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/179SNACBudgetConusltationRepsonse2016-2017.pdf>

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

5.3. MSC Transition Plan Document

The MSC Transition plan was submitted to Council for further review. It was noted that LBPSB Chairwoman, Suanne Stein Day commended the report. The timing if the submission is excellent as transitions had not begun as of this present date.

5.4 Presentation to SNAC on "Cooking with Autonomy" scheduled for April 20th meeting
SNAC will receive a special presentation on the new "Cooking with Autonomy" program that is offered by LBPSB. The presentation will take place at the start of the next SNAC meeting on April 20th, 2016. The presentation will last approximately 20 minutes, with 5-10 minutes allotted for questions and answers.

5.5 Bill 86 Update

SNAC members were informed that many stakeholders in education have submitted briefs, and many key players are participating in the hearings. Special mention was given to the presentation by the "Coalition de parents d'enfants a besoins particuliers" who presented many of the same ideas that had been recommended by SNAC and QESEC last year. Their hearing may be viewed here by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/video-audio/archives-parlementaires/travaux-commissions/AudioVideo-63629.html>

Given that most of the member groups of SNAC have submitted briefs through their associations, including Administrators, Teachers and Commissioners, the committee decided not to submit a brief on behalf of SNAC. However, upon request of several parents, a brief was prepared in order to specifically reflect the voice of Parents of Students with IEPs throughout the LBPSB. The brief does not tackle Bill 86 as a whole, but reflects SNAC's recommendations from last year regarding increasing the representation of parents of students with IEPs at every level throughout the school board.

6.0 New Business

6.1 LBPSB 5-year Strategic Plan Consultation (due April 15th, 2016)

SNAC recognizes the importance of the 5-year Strategic Plan, specifically for the future planning and success of our students with Special Needs. While an initial discussion took place, SNAC members have yet to tackle the "6 Guiding Questions" as provided by the school board. As the next SNAC meeting takes place on April 20th (after the April 15th deadline for response), committee members felt strongly that a consultation of this level of importance should be discussed in person at the next SNAC meeting and not via email. As a direct result, Angela Berryman set forth a motion to ask the Council of Commissioners to extend the deadline. (SNAC1516-3.5) This motion was first approved by Kiley Philp, seconded by Angela Berryman, and unanimously approved.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote

A subcommittee comprised of Kiley Philp, Angela Berryman, and Samantha Marco was formed to tackle this issue further. The attached letter can be following on the following link:

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/180SNACLetterRequestingExtentionto5-YRStrategicPlanConsultationMarch202016-Final.pdf>

7.0 Standing Reports

7.1 SNAC Report to CPC, Education, and Council

The Report was included in the kit.

7.2 Administration

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

- On February 22, the Family and School Support and Treatment Team were invited to present to the Council of Commissioners. This year FSSTT is celebrating 20 years of interventions to support students with emotional and behavioral challenges in inclusive settings. In 2014 FSSTT was honoured by QESBA with an excellence in education award and in Sept 2015 the YMCA awarded the team a Peace Medal.
- On February 11, the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for ASD participated in a provincial forum on Autism organized by the QC government, held in Quebec City. Patricia Assouad represented the Anglophone education sector at this all day session that examined the needs of this population across the lifespan.
- The CoE for ASD will hold a 5 day intensive training on structured interventions for students with ASD. 14 participants will be trained in principles inspired by the TEACCH approach; 4 spots are for LBP staff, the other participants come from all over the province. This session is to be held at Sherwood Forest elementary from March 14-18.
- The CoE for Mental Health is organizing two separate training sessions on suicide prevention, in collaboration with Suicide Action Montreal. These 3-day trainings will be given to LBPSB and EMSB psychologists and guidance counsellors. The first session takes place in March-April, the second in May.
- SSD and its partners will once again be hosting three awareness evenings for Grades 5 and 6 student and their parents. These evenings aim to facilitate students transitioning to high school while encouraging parents and pre-teens to be pro-active in preventing risk behaviors related to smoking, alcohol and drug use as well as gaming and gambling. The events take place on March 23rd (at Lakeside), April 6th (at Riverdale) and April 13th (at Westwood Jr.) from 6:40-9pm. Invitations have gone out to all Cycle 3 students.
- A full management meeting with all in-school administrators and head office administrators will be held on March 16th, 2016.

7.3 Council of Commissioners

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

- Due to a reversal of decision students in zones 15 and 16 will now have the choice to go to either Christmas Park Elementary School for the Bilingual Program or the merged Sherwood Forest/St. Paul Jr. and Sr. Schools for the Francais Plus program.
- The LBPSB will renew its partnership with Free the Children for a term ending June 30th, 2018.

- Rental fees will go up 3% for the 2016-17 school years. The LBPSB will still charge the cheapest rate of all organizations in the region. The object is not to make a profit but to provide facilities for our city, town and organizational partners at a reasonable cost.
- The sale process for the following buildings will be started at International Language Centre, Orchard Elementary, Thorndale Elementary and Allion Elementary.
- The Strategic Plan draft for 2015-2020 will be distributed to the parents' committees and to the Board's other consultative partners during the week of February 22nd. Responses are due to the Secretariat by April 15th, 2016.

7.4 Special Needs Parent Commissioner Report

Angela Berryman provided a verbal report in Sandra Buckingham's absence. Issues such as Bill 86, the Transportation Plan and the LBPSB Budget were discussed.

7.5 Central Parents' Committee

Jennifer DiMarco provided a verbal discussion to the committee. Specifically, she mentioned that at the last meeting, a lengthy 45-minute discussion focused on children with Special Needs and the recent budget cuts. It was reiterated how the budget cuts at the school board affect everyone. Additionally, Carol Heffernan has been asked to present her presentation on the LBPSB Budget Allocation Process at region.

7.6 Education Committee

Barbara Schnider provided a detailed report for the kit.

7.7 QESEC

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

7.8 P.T.U.

Arlene Tennant reported that activities have started in the schools again due to the vote to discontinue work-to-rule tactics. Additionally, it was reported that the QPAT does not support Bill 86, claiming that it will have a negative impact on student learning and that it is harmful to the democratic process. QPAT will present a response, in person, to the parliamentary commission hearings in the near future. Finally, Arlene mentioned that there will be elections for the PTU executive in April.

7.9 P.A.S.A

Diana Martire provided a report for P.A.S.A in the kit. March is a busy month preparing report cards, IEPs, Portfolio evenings and Parent Interviews. Some administrators are supporting new teacher interviews at the school board on March 23rd as well.

7.10 Professionals

Maureen Hunt had nothing new to report.

7.11 I.A.S.S

Robert Gilmartin had no new news to report.

7.12 Treasurer's Report

Donnalynn Rainey provided a detailed report in the kit.

7.13 Website Administrator's Report

Jennifer DiMarco advised the committee there were 340 hits to the SNAC Website in the last month. Additionally, there were also 53 views of the archived webcasts of previous parent workshops offered by SNAC.

7.14 Workshops Attended

None.

8.0 Correspondence

8.1 41st Annual Conference on Learning Disabilities in Montreal from April 6-8, 2016

8.2 MCLD Parent Conference April 17th, 2016

The conference is open to both parents and educators and will cover topics such as anxiety in children; impact of sensory processing abilities; adolescent gaming; drugs and alcohol use; understanding assistive technology; ADHD and daily management for parents; strategies for building language skills, and understanding disabilities to help build social competence. More information can be found by clicking on the following link:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ebv39rxief27e768&llr=hlz9vblab>

Several SNAC members have expressed interest in attending this conference. As a result, a motion was set by Angela Berryman to allocate \$260 from the SNAC budget to send 4 members to this conference. (SNAC1516-3.6) This motion was first approved by Kiley Philp, seconded by Jennifer DiMarco, and unanimously approved. Samantha Marco, Donnalynn Rainey, Arlene Tennant and Brett Hillgartner will therefore attend, and submit a report to the committee based in the conferences they attended.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote

8.3 Youth Conference- My Life, My Path, My Pace

A conference entitled, "My Life, My Path, My Pace: A conference for young adults with developmental disabilities" will take place on April 16th, 2016 at Dawson College. This conference will feature Keynote Speaker Benoit Huot, Paralympic Gold Medalist. More information can be found by clicking in the following link:

https://www.facebook.com/PACEConference/photos/a.942340549154354.1073741829.9251269808_75711/942340262487716/?type=3&theater

9.0 Varia

9.1 Creatability Expo- May 13th, 2016 at Peter Hall

Peter Hall is hosting a Creatability Expo whereby up to 20 special needs creative professionals seek to promote and sell their unique handmade creations. Over 300 teachers, parents, professionals, service providers, individuals with unique talents and ideas, schools, employment agencies, autism organizations, and therapists are amongst the varied shoppers expected to attend and discover artists and sponsors.

9.2 Screening of the Movie "Screenagers" on April 7th at Kuper Academy

Kuper Academy will be screening the popular movie "**Screenagers**": on April 7th at 7 p.m. In **SCREENAGERS**, physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, **SCREENAGERS** reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance. Tickets for this event are available by presale \$20.00 (adults) or at the door \$25.00. For non-Kuper students, presale is \$10 or \$15.00 at the door. For more information about this film, please check <http://www.screenagersmovie.com>

10.0 Questions from the Public

None.

11.0 Adjournment

(SNAC1516-0.7) Upon a motion set by Jennifer DiMarco, then seconded by Robert Gilmartin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.

*The next meeting will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, April 20th, 2016
in room 219/221, 1925 Brookdale, Dorval*