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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING – May 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

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

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**In Attendance:** Angela Berryman, Sandra Buckingham Maria Colavita, Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn (S.S.D.), Laurie Kathleen Fox, Brett Hillgartner, Maureen Hunt (P.E.P.), Samantha Marco, Christine McLean, Danny Olivenstein (Commissioner), Erik Olsthoom (S.S.D.) Kiley Philp, Donnalynn Rainey, Kathy Robinson, Barbara Schnider, and Arlene Tennant (P.T.U.).

**Regrets:** Marie-Eve Claude (S.S.D.), Mary Ann Davis (Commissioner), Robert Gilmartin (I.A.S.S.), Franca Kesic (W.I.A.I.H.), Dianna Martire (P.A.S.A.), and Cheryl Vienneau.

**Recording Secretary:** Laurie Kathleen Fox

**Observers:** Steve Ballaine, Natasha Drysdale, Peter Gilson, Shannon Labadie, Marie Maguigad, Sheila Moody and Sazini Nzula.

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**1.0 Meet and Greet:**

Prior to the meeting, SNAC was pleased to host a “Meet & Greet” dinner with parents of students on an IEP who sit on their respective Governing Boards as the IEP Parent Representative to Governing Board. Parent representatives shared their positive experiences in this role, and look forward to continuing next year.

*Brett Hillgartner called the meeting to order at 7:38.*

**2.0 Special Presentation: “Work Oriented Training Pathways”**

SNAC received a special presentation on the Work-Oriented Training Path (WOTP) within the LBPSB from Peter Gilson, Educational Consultant. The WOTP allows for students to partake in a 3-year, pre-work training program for students unable to attain a DES while providing a supportive and gradual transition into the workplace with increasing stage hours each year. The WOTP provides a pathway to success for students for whom previously really nothing suitable had been offered.

There are two programs within the WOTP. The 3 year Pre-Work Training program, for students unable to attain a DES, provides a supportive and gradual transition into the workplace with increasing stage hours each year. Successful students receive a MEESR Pre-Work Training Certificate. The CFER at Riverdale, the CFER at LCCHS, a program at Lakeside with a focus in cooking, a program at PCHS, and a program at MacDonald High School fall under this category.

The Semi-Skilled Training Program is a three-year program for students who have attained the objectives of the elementary level programs of study in ELA and Mathematics but have not met the end of secondary cycle I levels in these two subjects. The goal of this program is to develop competencies in a trade. Successful students receive a MEESR TCST (Training Certificate for a Semi-

skilled Trade). These students may then go out into the working world, take a second year for a different trade, bridge to certain vocational options which do not require Grade 10 or transfer back into DES stream at the high school. This program is offered at Beurling, Lakeside, PCHS, and Westwood Sr. WOTP provides a pathway to success for students for whom previously really nothing suitable had been offered. The growth in their self-assurance as they come to see themselves as capable young adults is nothing short of awesome. SNAC offered to help increase awareness of the WOTP programs by adding information to the SNAC Website: <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/WOTP/page.asp>.

### **3.0 Confirmation of Quorum: establish voting rights to Alternate members as required.**

(SNAC1516-5.1) With Christine McLean's delay, voting rights were accorded to Barbara Schnider.

*Quorum confirmed.*

### **4.0 Additions to Agenda**

There were no requests for any additions to the agenda.

#### ***4.1 Approval of the Agenda***

(SNAC1516-5.2) A motion to approve the agenda was put forth by Jennifer DiMarco, seconded by Samantha Marco, and approved by all.

*MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.*

### **5.0 Corrections to the Minutes of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

#### ***5.1 Approval of the Minutes of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016***

(SNAC1516-5.3) Jennifer DiMarco approved the minutes, seconded by Kiley Philp, and consequently, unanimously approved.

*MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.*

### **6.0 Questions from the Public**

There were no questions at this time.

### **7.0 Business Arising**

#### ***7.1 Ratify vote of the 3-year Plan Consultation***

It was decided by the committee that a response to the 3-year Plan of Allocation and Destinations of Immovables will be provided. Brett Hillgartner provided a response that was approved by all voting members in the committee via an email vote. (SNAC1516-5.4) An in-house vote was taken again, and the 3 year Plan consultation was again approved by all.

*MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.*

## **7.2 Posters for SNAC AGM on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

[http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/189SNACConstitution\\_Sept2015-FINAL.pdf](http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/189SNACConstitution_Sept2015-FINAL.pdf)

At the April SNAC meeting, the committee established September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as the optimal date for the SNAC Annual General Meeting. The committee is awaiting confirmation from Administration on the date, and the AGM election process that will be followed. Historically, any parent of a student on an IEP who is interested in joining SNAC can nominate themselves to join the committee, and new positions are filled by majority vote at the AGM. Four voting parent positions and 5 non-voting parent positions are available, as per the SNAC Constitution which was approved early this year. SNAC parent members expressed that they believe the existing election procedure for SNAC parent members and Special Needs Parent Commissioner work well and should continue.

*Christine McLean arrived at 8:38 during this discussion. With Christine's arrival, voting rights were relinquished from Barbara Schnider.*

## **7.3 IEP Parent on Governing Board Update**

As a result of SNAC's and CPC's efforts last year, a new role of IEP Parent Representative on Governing Board was introduced this year. SNAC is aware of nine (9) Elementary and three (3) High School representatives that have been elected to their respective Governing Boards. A Question and Answer document to clarify the role of this position was prepared by SNAC and shared with CPC for the purposes of responding to questions that have been raised by various Governing Boards. This issue was discussed at the Joint Regional Parents' Committee Meeting on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, where it was recommended that SNAC request the aid of Administration to request that all Principals inform the parents at every school about this optional position, prior to the school AGMs next year.

## **7.4 Parent Structures Committee Update**

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, some SNAC parent members (Brett Hillgartner, Kiley Philps, Sandra Buckingham and Jennifer DiMarco) attended a Joint-Regions Parent Committee meeting where the idea of changing the structure of the Parents Committee was discussed. That meeting was followed by the Parent Structures Committee meeting of May 5<sup>th</sup> which was attended by Jenifer DiMarco and Sandra Buckingham. At this well-attended meeting, all participants had a chance to provide their respective opinions to the rest of the members of the committee. All global school board issues discussed at the Joint Regional Committee meetings will affect parents of students with special needs equally as mainstream parents. SNAC executive parent members provided a report providing suggestions to committee, including:

- ✓ The Special Needs Parent Commissioner should continue to be elected by the parents that they represent: SNAC parent members
- ✓ The Special Needs Parent Commissioner should be a voting member of both CPC and the Joint Region Committee, along with the other Parent Commissioners.

- ✓ The SNAC Rep to the Parents Committee will be a voting member of both CPC and the Joint Region Committee, as per the Education Act.
- ✓ The Alternate SNAC Rep to Parents Committee will be a non-voting member of both CPC and the Joint Region Committee, with speaking rights (and voting rights if the primary Representative is not present)
- ✓ All SNAC parent representatives will be encouraged to attend the Joint Region Committee meetings, and will have speaking rights, but not voting rights.

### **7.5 Bill 86 Update**

<http://plus.lapresse.ca/screens/2337cd67-246b-428d-8555-457ad14f8dc4|3sjhPsxBO .i.html>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2700631/quebec-education-minister-scrap-bill-86/>

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/quebec-to-scrap-contentious-education-reform-bill-report-says>

On Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Education Minister Sébastien Proulx confirmed that the controversial Bill 86 will be rescinded. Minister Proulx said the government would rather focus on bigger priorities, the main one being student success rates. Proulx added a possible constitutional challenge over Bill 86 wouldn't be worth the time and resources. As a result, school board elections are here to stay for the time being. Minister Proulx said the goal is to bring Quebec's graduation rate near that of Ontario's. That province announced a graduation rate of 85 per cent last week. To make that goal a reality, a new bill will be tabled. Moreover, Minister Proulx said he's looking at compulsory schooling until the age of 18, increased resources for special needs students and a professional order for teachers.

### **7.6 Follow-up: Transition Plans for MSC**

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/173>

As a follow-up to SNAC's recommendations, the committee was advised that while written MSC Transition Plans will not be implemented, internal SSD procedures have been adjusted to reflect many of SNAC's suggestions.

## 8.0 New Business

### **8.1 SNAC Annual Report: Recommendations to the 2016-2017 Committee**

[http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/SNAC-2014-2015-ANNUAL-REPORT\\_Final.pdf](http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/SNAC-2014-2015-ANNUAL-REPORT_Final.pdf)

Brett Hillgartner will be composing this year's SNAC Annual Report for the 2015-2016 academic school year. She has requested that committee members examine last year's annual report (specifically, the last section on recommendations) to see if there are things that should be added or changed to this list.

## 9.0 Standing Reports

### **9.1 SNAC Report to CPC, Education, and Council**

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/187SNAC-Reportfrom20April2016.pdf>

The Report was included in the kit.

### **9.2 Administration**

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

- Ashley Daniel Foot, Adult/Vocational Transition Consultant has organized a Vocational training road show again this year. This multi-media presentation has toured all of the school board's high schools to provide grade 9 and 10 students with information related to various trade program offerings.
- This year's Partners in Prevention evenings for Cycle 3 students and parents organized by the Student Services team have been very successful. Attendance was very high for all three sessions and feedback was very positive. Partners giving workshops included Foster, the Montreal Police, and Risk within Reason, Quebec Lung Association, and the McGill Centre for Gambling.
- On April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, training was given to elementary and high schools on peer/self exploitation and internet safety. The Workshop featured a speaker from the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. Schools were given a resource guide and materials for use with students. A parent online safety session was given the evening of April 11<sup>th</sup> with about 120 parents in attendance.
- On March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, Student Services offered a training workshop to administrators and teachers on assistive technology to help school staff use technology to support students with special needs. A similar workshop for high school and continuing education teachers will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Senior Administration has begun the budget and staffing process for the 2016-2017 academic year. Departments are looking at student registration data and reviewing salary forecasts, in anticipation of additional budget information from the Ministry.
- The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Truly Outstanding Pearson Show (TOPS) takes place at Lakeside April 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. This show features over 100 students from the Lester B. Pearson School

Board's 13 high schools with incredible talent in the area of singing, dancing, and music. All are welcome. Tickets are \$15.

### ***9.3 Council of Commissioners***

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

- Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the Pearson Electro Technology Center Satellite Campus located at 6100 Champlain Boulevard in Verdun will now be a Continuing Education Centre
- Administrative Staffing, as well as Status Changes for the 2016-2017 academic year for the Head Office, In-Schools and Centers is available on the school board website. )
- Parents interested in derogations for four- year olds to Kindergarten, or five- year olds to Grade 1 have two deadlines, one being at the end of March, while the other is at the end of May.
- Staffing began earlier this year due to Major School Change. There will be 90 teacher interviews on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is fewer than last year's approximate 130 as there remains a large number from last year that has been placed on the AESOP system. Teacher candidates are mainly coming from McGill, Concordia, Bishops, and Ottawa Universities. Candidates are invited proportionally by category and preference is given to those who have already done stages within our system and may have received favourable reviews.
- The Pearson Educational Foundation Fun Run will take place on May 1st. Information and registration can be found at <http://pef.lbpsb.qc.ca/run.html>. Any questions can be directed to the PEF office at (514) 422-3000, extension 37000.
- The names LaSalle Elementary Junior and LaSalle Elementary Senior were chosen for the new schools created by the merger of Orchard and St. Lawrence Academy Junior and Senior schools located at 8340 David Boyer, LaSalle (Junior School) and 1555 Rancourt, LaSalle (Senior School).

### ***9.4 Special Needs Parent Commissioner Report***

Sandra Buckingham provided a report in the kit.

### ***9.5 Central Parents' Committee***

Details of the last CPC were previously discussed at length under item 7.4: Parent Structures Committee Update.

### ***9.6 Education Committee***

Barbara Schnider provided a detailed report for the kit. At the May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 meeting, the following important points were cited:

- Lenko-Cristafaro and M. Tranchemontagne-Bougie, teachers from Westwood Senior, have been piloting the new proposed History Program for 1 year and are somewhat satisfied with the curriculum, although they were not provided with material and it was perceived by some to be controversial, in that it did not cover Anglophones, Immigrants, and Aboriginal people to the extent that it should. They feel that the Ministry has been listening to their input. UPDATE: The Ministry recently announced that it will delay implementation of the program until results from the pilot project are analyzed.
- P. Normandin spoke about the CASP Program: A program designed for students aged 6-15 with moderate to severe disabilities, is being piloted at Springdale. It focuses on the shift from academic to social competencies, with autonomy and self determination being the long-term goal. After feedback is analyzed, CASP is set to be implemented province-wide as of the 2017-2018 academic year.
- M.E. Claude and M. Abadie explained a new Sex Education program was rolled out in March 2015.
- 15 schools in Quebec were selected to participate in the pilot project. Riverview was selected in our board. Official documents are available on the Ministry website. It was reported that the English documentation was delayed and needs to be improved. The Ministry has looked toward LBPSB to provide input with regards to adapting the program for students with Special Needs.
- The Continuing Education calendar for the 2017-2018 academic year was presented. Four board wide professional days, as well as five Centre based days are scheduled. Various sessions are scheduled for Continuing Education throughout the year, with Vocational Education groups starting at different times. Members of the Education Committee recommended that the Continuing Education Calendar for 2017-2018 be brought forth to Council.
- T. Rhymes reported on activities from ESD and IT. Highlights included an upcoming Math conference; Future Ready Summit took place- great participation; April 22<sup>nd</sup> “Unconference” - (no workshops planned), information sharing and best practices - very well attended with excellent feedback; Regional Entrepreneurial Awards - BHS and Lakeside both won, moving on to the provincial level; Financial Literacy course is now available as a Secondary 5 option course in some schools with others taking bits and pieces of it.
- Dr. Cindy Finn reported on activities from SSD. Highlights included a collaboration between SSD and ESD in order to examine ways to evaluate students with special needs; workshops being offered in collaboration with teachers to ensure that assistive technology is used in the classroom; 3 workshops offered to teachers on Read/Write; “Safety in a Digital World”

workshop; planning for next year taking place - Co-op, WOTP, LIFE, and Horizon referrals have gone out and spaces are being looked at.

- V. Marin reported that a new curriculum has been developed, but has not yet been implemented in all boards; May/June abridged session available to students who want to complete science courses before CEGEP.

### ***9.7 QESEC***

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

### ***9.8 P.T.U.***

A report was provided via email to all SNAC members. Specifically, Arlene Tenant specified that the newly elected president for the Pearson Teachers Union is Heidi Yetman.

### ***9.9 P.A.S.A***

Diana Martire sent an email to Brett Hillgartner, indicating that there was nothing new to report.

### ***9.10 Professionals***

Maureen Hunt had nothing new to report.

### ***9.11 I.A.S.S***

With Robert Gilmartins absence, no report was provided.

### ***9.12 Treasurer's Report***

Donnalynn Rainey provided a detailed verbal report to the committee. Key budgetary constituents included the following: The addition of \$130 to the budget as 2 members did not attend a conference last month; a deduction of \$374.73 for the evening's Meet & Greet dinner, and a deduction of \$120 to be allocated for the printing and purchase of next year's AGM Meeting (**SNAC1516-4.4**). This left the committee with a surplus of \$336.00 from its budget.

At this point in the meeting, discussion turned to how to spend the remainder of the SNAC budget. Brett Hillgartner suggested that she will use the remaining money on cups, plates, and napkins for monthly meetings. Other money will also be used to purchase pens, pads of paper, and various stationary for upcoming SNAC Workshops. As a result, it was moved by Brett Hillgartner (**SNAC1516-5.5**) to spend the remainder of the SNAC annual budget on these items for the following year. This motion was first approved by Sandra Buckingham and seconded by Jennifer DiMarco, and consequentially approved by all.

***MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.***

### ***9.13 Website Administrator's Report***

Jennifer DiMarco advised the committee there were 810 hits to the SNAC Website in the last month. Additionally, there were also 97 views of the archived webcasts of previous parent workshops offered by SNAC.

### ***9.14 Workshops Attended***

Nil.

## **10.0 Correspondence**

### ***10.1 Letter from Clearpoint***

The SNAC Committee received an extremely positive letter written by Rachel Wilson Principal, Clearpoint Elementary IB World School. The letter described the success stories from various special needs children attending her school. This letter prompted the committee to examine the possibility of spreading good news throughout the school boards in regards to our special needs students.

## **11.0 Varia**

As this was Barbara Schneider's last meeting at SNAC as a committee member, Brett Hillgartner expressed her gratitude to her for her many years of volunteering her time to the committee, including other sub-committees within the school board. The committee then gave Barbara a round of applause for her hard work, as well as a parting gift.

## **12.0 Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the parent observers.

## **13.0 Adjournment**

**(SNAC1516-5.6)** Upon a motion set by Jennifer DiMarco, then seconded by Samantha Marco, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 pm.

***The next meeting will be the SNAC Annual General Meeting. The date of the next meeting has yet to be confirmed. Please consult the SNAC website for further inquiry as to the time and date of the AGM.***

***On behalf of everyone at SNAC, we wish you a fabulous and safe summer vacation, spent happily accompanied by your family and friends!***

