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Special Needs Advisory Committee

Lester B. Pearson School Board

Minutes of the Meeting – November 2, 2016

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

In Attendance: Angela Berryman, Jennifer DiMarco, Christine McLean, Robert Gilmartin (I.A.S.S.), Danny Olivenstein (Commissioner), Erik Olsthoorn (S.S.D.), Kiley Philp, Wayne Clifford (Commissioner), Carrie-Ann Houthuys, Cindy Finn (S.S.D.), Sheila Moody, Theresa Gagnon, Kathy Robinson, Diana Martire (P.A.S.A), Franca Kesic (W.I.A.I.H.),

Regrets: Donnalynn Rainey, Samantha Marco, Maureen Hunt (P.E.P), Mary Rutherford (P.E.P), Marie-Eve Claude (S.S.D.), Sandra Buckingham (outgoing Special Needs Parent Commissioner), Stephanie Shaffer

Recording Secretary: Christine McLean

Observers:

Jennifer DiMarco called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

1.0 Special Presentation with Dr. Cindy Finn, “Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec”:

Dr. Cindy Finn gave an outstanding and detailed presentation on Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec. She focused in on LBPSB and provided us with the latest statistics from October 2016.

Her previous presentation from 2012 is located on the SNAC website in the webcasts section. <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/webcasts/page/asp>

A copy of her slides presented at this meeting will also be available on the SNAC website.

The total population of students in LBPSB as of October 2016 is 20105.

The total population of students with special needs in LBPSB is 13%
(2640 students of 20105 total students)

Within the 13% the breakdown is as follows:

- **61% (1617 of the 2640) are considered in difficulty** (learning difficulties, mild intellectual impairments, behaviour disorders etc.)
- **38% (1023 of the 2640) are students with handicaps** – (Students with coding such as Autism, Psychopathological, Language Disorders, Hearing Impairments etc.)

Of note: Autism Spectrum Disorders counts for 45% of the students with handicaps within LBPSB.

Students on IEPs within LBPSB breakdown:

K & Elementary = 17.9% with an IEP

Secondary = 28.7% with an IEP

Dr. Finn pointed out that this is the first time in her history at LBPSB that she has seen the number of students with handicaps over 1,000.

Questions from members

A member had a question regarding coding. “Are some codes at risk of not being funded?” Dr Finn responded that currently there are no codes that are at risk of losing funding

Another member had a question regarding the funding of Adult education. “Does the funding continue post secondary?” Dr Finn answered that the funding only follows through to Secondary or to the age of 21 in some cases.

In closing Dr Finn remarked that there’s never enough money to meet all the needs of the students within the LBPSB but they do the best they can.

A member inquired if this was the reason why integration aid hours are not fulfilled until September. Dr. Finn responded that this is not the reason and it’s due to fulfillment by seniority.

Franca Kesic (W.I.A.I.H.) arrived 7:07pm

Arlene Tennant (P.T.U.) arrived 7:08pm

2.0 Conformation of Quorum: establish voting rights (SNAC1516-5.1)
Quorum confirmed by Jennifer DiMarco (SNAC Chair)

3.0 Additions to Agenda:

3.1 Approval of Agenda (SNAC1516-01.2) The agenda was approved by Robert Gilmartin and seconded by Kiley Philp.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

4.0 Corrections to Minutes of October 19th, 2016

4.1 Approval of Minutes of October 19th, 2016 (SNAC1516-01.3)

Correction to 5.0 from “unanimous vote” to “majority vote”.

Addition to 6.3 of Allion Elementary and Dorval Elementary

Kiley Philp approved the minutes, seconded by Diana Martire.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

5.0 Questions from the Public:

There were no questions from the public at this time.

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 SNAC Rules of Internal Management Review – a reformatted copy was given to the SNAC chair for review and will be followed up at the November 16th meeting. Please see the response letter in your kit from Mme Genevieve Dugre.

6.2 Priority issues for the 2016/2017 Committee Review

The committee was asked to prioritize the issues that SNAC will cover this year under their mandate.

In so far, Jennifer DiMarco will ask the Parents Committee if they can send out a message regarding SNAC in the quarterly email that PC sends out via the ERMS system.

Others ideas include:

- 1) A reminder to resource teachers about IEP kit link.
- 2) A possibility of having a table at the Education Fair
- 3) SNAC being present at school open houses in January.
- 4) Ensuring that school website updates still have SNAC link.
- 5) Strategies for reaching parents regarding the IEP process.
- 6) Supports for parents of children on IEPs or being introduced to IEPs.
- 7) Possible Workshop on Preparing parents for the IEP transition to high school.
- 8) SNAC Website: Creating a “High School Transition Kit” icon that would contain information for parents on high school preparation for students with special needs.

6.3 IEP Parent on Governing Board Update

To date we know of 9 schools whereby an IEP parent representative on the governing board was voted in this year.

They are Allion, Beacon Hill, Beurling, Dorset, Dorval, Lasalle Elem. Sr., Lindsay Place, Mount Pleasant and Riverdale HS

Jennifer DiMarco will mention this role at the Parents' Committee this month to gather more names.

It was discussed that more documentation is needed as to what this role entails for parent representatives. We currently have a Q&A document on our website, but perhaps it needs updating. Item was tabled for further discussion.

6.4 Link to Quebec Government Public Consultation on Education Success

SNAC will not be submitting a committee brief. Here is the link for families to submit their own individual briefs

<http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/en/references/publications/results/detail/article/public-consultation-on-educational-success/>

7.0 Reports

7.1 SNAC Report to PC, Programs and Services and Council

SNAC chair will send electronically to all members as well as post on PC Basecamp and provide to the IEP reps on Governing boards known to date. They are also posted on the External Reports Section of the SNAC website.

7.2 Administration

The Administration Report was provided in the kit.

7.3 Council of Commissioners

The Administration Report was provided in the kit.

7.4 Special Needs Parent Commissioner Report

Nothing to report.

7.5 Parents' Committee

Jennifer DiMarco will report back to the committee regarding the possible inclusion of SNAC members on the PC Base Camp.

A colorful organogram was distributed amongst committee members.

7.6 Programs and Services

Nothing to report

7.7 QESEC (Quebec English Special Education Commissioners)

Nothing to report - Jennifer DiMarco will reach out to the past chair to learn more about it

7.8 P.T.U

Arlene Tennant – nothing to report

7.9 P.A.S.A

Diana Martire verbally reported that there was a two day pd session regarding how admin will support teachers providing efficiency and to help support teachers in assessing students. Having conversations with the teachers on how to engage their students.

Report will be distributed by Jennifer DiMarco

7.10 Professionals

No report at this time.

Cindy Finn verbally reported that the professionals recently attended a workshop with 25 presenters.

7.11 I.A.S.S.

Robert Gilmartin verbally reported that all technicians and aids attended a series of 14 different workshops (as mentioned by Cindy Finn). The keynote speaker (Bradley Haven) was of particular interest. Born with Cerebral Palsy and also non-verbal he started his early education at Mackay Centre School and then proceeded to John Rennie High School. He graduated after 5 years and is now in his 2nd year at Dawson College. Supported throughout by occupational therapy and all the specialists at the board.

7.12 Treasurer's Report

Sheila Moody reported no change.

Jennifer DiMarco verbally questioned if babysitting costs for parents sitting on committee would be eligible for submission. Discussion

to follow at a later date.

7.13 Website Administrator's Report

Jennifer DiMarco advised the committee that there were 194 main page hits to the SNAC website since the last SNAC meeting and 7 webcast hits.

7.14 Workshops Attended

Robert Gilmartin – see I.A.S.S. report

8.0 Correspondence

A previously discussed email from a Lasalle parent who reached out to us regarding their child on an IEP.

Mme Genevieve Dugré's response to our SNAC internal questions – provided in the kit.

9.0 Varia

Patrick O'Connor and Celina Berube will be presenting the new format of the high school IEP at the November 16th meeting.

Franca Kesic of WIAIH has organized a series of information sessions regarding Financial Planning for your Special Needs Child on Nov 23 @ WIAH from 7-9pm. Call Franca or check the WIAIH website. wiaih.qc.ca

10.0 Questions from the Public: None

11.0 Adjournment (SNAC1516-01.4) Upon a motion set by Robert Gilmartin then seconded by Kathy Robinson. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

***Next Meeting: Wednesday November 16, 2016 (7:00PM)
in room 219/221.***

Please note: No meeting will take place in December.