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Special Needs Advisory Committee Lester B. Pearson School Board

Minutes of the Meeting – November 16, 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), Samantha Marco, Stephanie Shaffer, Mary Rutherford (P.E.P), Marie-Eve Claude (S.S.D.), Donnalynn Rainey

Regrets: Maureen Hunt (P.E.P), Sandra Buckingham (Outgoing Special Needs Parent Commissioner), Franca Kesic (W.I.A.I.H)

Recording Secretary: Christine McLean

Observers: Natasha Drysdale IEP Parent rep (Lakeside Academy)

Jennifer DiMarco called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1. **Special Guest Presentation: by Patrick O'Connor and Celina Berube** **“The New High School IEP for LBPSB”**

Patrick and Celina provided a detailed presentation to members of the new high school IEP. The objectives for changing it were as follows:

- continuity with elementary IEP - same format and document
- creating SMART goals
 - specific
 - measurable
 - attainable
 - realistic or results oriented
 - time bound
- need for clarity - parents and students should have a clear understanding of goals for each subject
- Need for a common menu of options available to all high schools

Key Features

- Personal supports listed - including tech grant materials
- strategies - common drop down menu options. Strategies are divided into categories
 - Academic
 - Visual
 - Auditory
 - Tactile/Kinesthetic
 - Social/Behavioural
 - Exams
- Objectives - common drop down menu options for all subjects using the Ministry's continuum of Learning. .
- Home Communication on Modified IEPs - 10 communications during the school year (at least 1/month - phone, written, in person)
- Progress comments are written directly on the IEP for each modified subject
- Option for teachers to write a strategy or objective not listed on the drop down menu

Discussion

The differences between an adaption and a modification on an IEP was discussed in detail.

Adapted IEP: The student is following the same objectives and course material as other students but there are adaptations per subject. For example extra time for tests, writing exams in a quiet room, use of a laptop instead of writing.

Modified IEP: The student is following a modified curriculum on a per subject basis. It is modified based on the needs of the student at that time. A student on a modified IEP is likely off cycle (2 years behind in learning). Parents are involved in the process and it is a team decision before a child is moved from adapted to modified. A student may be modified in one subject and following the regular program in others. Being on a modified IEP does not mean that all subjects have been modified.

Members expressed interest in having an information handout of the drop down menu of the high school IEP. Members felt it would be a great communication tool to have.

Members felt it important to note that parents should be made aware that if a student is on a modified program in cycle 2, for courses requiring ministry exams, they will not be on track to graduate with a high school diploma. Students with disabilities are allowed to remain in high school until they are 21 should they wish. Also, students after 21 can go to adult education and work on their equivalent diploma and graduate at a later date.

It was understood by many around the table that the difference between adapted and modified IEP's still confuses many parents - especially those new to the process. The idea of perhaps having an explanation directly on the IEP document itself, standard across the board, would be helpful.

Also helpful would be writing on the IEP who the parents should contact if they have questions.

1. Confirmation of Quorum: establish voting rights Quorum confirmed by Jennifer DiMarco (SNAC Chair)

1. Additions to Agenda:

1. Approval of Agenda The agenda was approved by Kiley Philp and seconded by Samantha Marco.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

1. Corrections to Minutes of November 2, 2016

4.1 Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2016

Kathy Robinson approved the minutes, seconded by Angela Berryman.

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 distributed and reviewed at the meeting.

A member recommended that section 4.2 Member Selection It would be important to mention that when a SNAC member is selected that you must be designated by the larger PC.

Note: Angela Berryman to send Jennifer DiMarco sentences for 4.1 and 4.4 Vacancies and 6.0

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.

- new member/potential member kit
- SNAC meet and greet - host a relaxed light dinner and evening
- ERMS system, PC only using 3, can SNAC use the other one for their newsletter?
- SSD to reach out to resource teachers to inform that we have extra IEP kits
- CLSC education fair table
- information table at kindergarten open houses. Confirmed presence at Dorset School K open house (January 19, 2017)
- finalize the revision of the IEP parent rep on governing board documentation

6.3 IEP Parent on Governing Board Update

We are currently aware of 11 parents of students on IEPs on Governing Boards.

Allion, Beacon Hill, Beurling, Dorset, Dorval, Kingsdale, Lakeside, Lasalle Elem. Jr. , Lindsay Place, Mount Pleasant, Riverdale

Discussion regarding IEP parent representative on GB and their role. It was suggested to revise the Q and A document this year

8:44pm Samantha Marco left

8:47pm Donna Lynn Rainey left

6.4 Health Surveys for Students

1. Island of Montreal is going to survey grade 6 students, questions about health. This is optional and parents can choose not to have their child participate. There is a parallel parent survey. If required, a child with special needs can get extra support to help them complete the survey.
2. There is a second survey for high school students across the province which is running until May 2017. Only selected schools will participate. Grades 7,8,9 Letters will be sent to the schools that are participating.

7. Reports

7.1 SNAC Report to Parents Committee, Programs and Services and Council

See reports in the kit and on the SNAC website.

7.2 Administration (Dr. Cindy Finn)

Verbal report: Career fair was held at Riverdale for sec 5 and sec 3 POP students. Very successful with over 2500 students in attendance. Very hand hands on.

Dr. Finn also participated in an event at the Douglas Institute~The Spectrum of Care Workshop for Navigators. This event was for navigators (professionals that guide students through the services available to them). This is something that they do in health and services to check in. It was the first time a representative from education was invited.

7.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny Olivenstein and Wayne Clifford)

Nothing to report

7.4 Special Needs Parent Commissioner Report (Angela Berryman)

Provided in kit

7.5 Parents' Committee (Jennifer DiMarco)

Report in kit

Suggestion that our meetings be posted as an event on the Parent's Committee

Facebook page – but they must mention they are open to parents of students on an IEP (not the general public)

7.6 Programs and Services (Kiley Philp)

Verbal report given:

A presentation on TIPS (trauma informed pedagogical practices) research of children who have suffered a trauma (accident, divorce, change of address/school)

Research shows that LBPSB students are more and more exposed to toxic stress. The question is: “How can we mediate these kids”

What ways can we approach students who have survived trauma? Changing the practices in schools and how we approach this.

Introducing more trauma sensitive schools.

7.7 QESEC (Jennifer DiMarco)

Nothing to report

7.8 P.T.U (Arlene Tennant)

Nothing to report

There was no power at John Rennie so the meeting was cancelled

7.9 P.A.S.A (Diana Martire)

Nothing to report

7.10 Professionals P.E.P. (Mary Rutherford)

Verbal report given: Sector 2 to have PD workshop.

7.11 I.A.S.S. (Robert Gilmartin)

Nothing to report

7.12 Treasurer’s Report (Sheila Moody)

Nothing new to report.

Must designate our spending agenda for the year.

Childcare: if a member wishes to expense their childcare they need something in writing for childcare expenses.

This has been tabled to January for review of the budget and allocation of funds

7.13 Website Administrator’s Report (Jennifer DiMarco)

Jennifer DiMarco advised the committee that there were 259 main page hits to the SNAC website since the last SNAC meeting and 29 webcast hits.

7.14 Workshops Attended

Jennifer DiMarco – Michelle Garcia Winner

November 4 at UQAM - hosted by the Gold Centre

“Implementing Social Thinking Concepts and Vocabulary”

8.0 Correspondence

Nothing to report

9.0 Varia

How do we reintegrate a student back into the school when they are on a shortened day?

Cindy Finn responded to this question. There needs to be a plan made for that child. A principal will have to make a plan to find time for that child with an integration aid. This may require that the school reorganize their allocated aid support time to ensure that the needs of the student being reintegrated are met. However, it was also noted that the school has to use the support that they have. The school does not receive additional funding to support a student being reintegrated.

10.0 Questions from the Public: None

11.0 Adjournment Upon a motion set by Robert Gilmartin then seconded by Stephanie Shaffer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday January 18th, 2017 (7:00PM) in room 219/221. There will be a special presentation at the beginning of the meeting from France D'Aoust, Director Financial Services. She will be presenting on the overview of the budget for special needs.