



of the  
Lester B. Pearson School Board

**Annual Report  
2016-2017  
FINAL**

## **Special Needs Advisory Committee Members 2016-2017:**

### **Parent Members**

Jennifer DiMarco  
Samantha Marco  
Angela Berryman  
Stephanie Shaffer  
Donnalynn Rainey  
Christine McLean  
Sheila Moody  
Kiley Philp  
Kathy Robinson  
Carrie-Ann Houthuys  
Theresa Gagnon

### **Administrative Liaison**

Dr. Cindy Finn (Director of Student Services)

### **PASA (School Administrators)**

Diana Martire

### **PTU (Pearson Teacher's Union)**

Arlene Tennant

### **IASS (Independent Association of Support Staff)**

Robert Gilmartin

### **Student Services**

Erik Olsthoorn (Coordinator of Student Services)  
Marie-Eve Claude (Assistant Director)

### **Student Services Professionals (PEP)**

Mary Rutherford (September-December)  
Maureen Hunt (January-June)

### **Commissioners**

Daniel Olivenstein  
Wayne Clifford

### **Community Representative (WIAIH)**

Franca Kesic

### **Executive:**

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Chairperson                       | Jennifer DiMarco |
| Vice Chair                        | Samantha Marco   |
| Special Needs Parent Commissioner | Angela Berryman  |
| Secretary                         | Christine McLean |
| Treasurer                         | Sheila Moody     |

### **External Committee Representatives:**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Parents' Committee    | Jennifer DiMarco, Stephanie Shaffer (alternate) |
| Programs and Services | Kiley Philp                                     |

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| SNAC Website and Emails | Jennifer DiMarco |
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### **SNAC Meeting Dates for 2016-2017:**

September 14, 2016

October 19, 2016

November 2, 2016

November 16, 2016

January 18, 2017 \*presentation only, no official meeting took place

February 15, 2017

March 22, 2017

April 19, 2017

May 17, 2017

### **The major goals of the committee this year were:**

- Share available IEP kits with resource teachers
- Continue to support parents of students with IEP's or being introduced to IEP's.
- Update website – include a tab on info re. transitioning to high school; encourage schools to add a link on their school's website re. SNAC.
- Provide information re. SNAC to schools to use during kindergarten orientation.
- Continue to encourage/support the role of parent rep for students with IEPs on governing boards.
- Continue to increase awareness of SNAC within the LBPSB community; contributing to the parents' committee newsletter and involvement in various LBPSB committees.
- Provide relevant professional development for parents: hosted a workshop in April

### **SNAC Presentation:**

This year SNAC was pleased to make a presentation to LBPSB parents in April entitled "*Transitioning your child with special needs to high school: The next frontier with regards to academics and social emotional learning*". Over 40 parents took part from 13 different schools: Allion, Beacon Hill, Beaconsfield HS, Beechwood, Beurling, Christmas Park, Dorset, Edgewater, Kingsdale Academy, Margaret Manson, Sherbrooke Academy, St John Fisher and Vanguard. A question and answer document will be made available under the FAQ tab on the SNAC website.

### **Presentations to SNAC:**

This year SNAC was fortunate enough to have several presentations made to them during their meetings. Those included:

- Geneviève Dugré – reviewed SNAC's mandate according to the Education Act
- Dr. Cindy Finn presented on educating students with special needs in Quebec
- France D'Aoust, presented on LBPSB budget allocation with regards to students with special needs
- Patrick O'Connor and Celina Berube on the new format for high school IEPs.

### **Consultation Responses:**

Consultation responses are listed on the SNAC website, under the “external reports” tab. This year SNAC provided a consultation response for each of the following:

- Budget Consultation (March 2017)
- By-Law 5 – Commissioner’s Code of Ethics (April 2017)
- By-Law I Fix Day/Time/Place of Regular meetings of the Council of Commissioners (April 2017)
- By Law IE Fix Day/Time/Place of Regular meetings of the Executive Committee (April 2017)
- Three year Plan of Allocation and Destination of Immovables (April 2017)
- By-Law 9A and 9B – Complaint examination procedures (May 2017)

### **Recommendations for the 2017-2018 Committee:**

1. Continue to advise the school board on the organization of educational services for students with special needs
2. Seek clarification regarding the *IEP representative on Governing Board* role, including how they are selected and how SNAC is made aware of their designation
3. Formal adoption of SNAC Internal Rules once results of member increase is approved
4. Discuss the suggestion of sharing information about SNAC with parents when IEPs are sent out in the fall
5. Continue to explore ideas on how to communicate more effectively with parents of students with special needs (ex.) Should SNAC create a facebook page like PC has?
6. Consider having a central location to host meeting files such as Basecamp
7. Create new SNAC member kit
8. Continue to provide input into each of the newsletters the Parents’ Committee publishes with contact information.

The date of our Annual General Meeting and Selection of New Members will be held on: Wednesday September 27, 2017 at 7 pm in the main boardroom at head office.

I would like to **thank** all members of the Special Needs Advisory Committee for their dedication, participation and hard work this year. Your time is valuable and giving up so much of it for our students and parents shows your commitment to our community. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer DiMarco - Chair  
LBPSB Special Needs Advisory Committee 2016-2017  
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