



Wednesday March 21, 2018

Me. Geneviève Dugré
Secretary General
Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925 Brookdale Avenue
Dorval, QC H9P 2Y7

Subject: Budget Consultation

Dear Me. Dugré,

In regard to the Budget Consultation, the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) is pleased to have the opportunity to provide input.

Question 1: What is your relationship to the Lester B. Pearson School Board?

School Board Committee - Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC)

Question 2:

Do you have any suggestions regarding objectives, principles or criteria used to govern the allocation of funds?

- Increase the priority of inclusion of the growing number of students with special needs throughout the school board and allocate more funds accordingly.

Question 3:

To help us further support our students' success, in your opinion, which of the following resources and programs are essential to supporting high levels of student achievement? Please select all that apply

Answers in order of importance for SNAC:

1. **Staff Training:** invest in the people who are working directly with our students. Give staff the tools and the training that they need to be able to manage the classrooms. Our goal with inclusion should be a quality education for all. It is not necessarily specialized programs that are going to make that happen. It is the people on the front



lines, our teachers and staff, that with the right support and training, have the power to make a difference in student achievement. What is most important is ensuring that staff, at all levels, are prepared to support the philosophy of a quality education for all.

2. Integration of Technology - for differentiated learning

Ensure that students have access to technology and that staff are trained and willing to use it in their classrooms. Technology can be used to level the playing field for students with special needs and should be considered an invaluable tool for helping students reach their potential.

3. Early Literacy Intervention

The earlier, the better. Provide students with intervention that is motivating, enjoyable, and will eventually help to build their self-esteem as a learner.

4. Special Education programming: more inclusive programming

Create more inclusive classrooms, where students of all needs and abilities are able to learn from one another. Promote collaboration and diversity in classrooms.

5. Experiential Learning

Learning through “doing” has the potential to reach a greater number of students than traditional “rote” learning.

6. French programming

Help students gain the confidence to use the skills that they acquire in the French language.

Question 4:

The Fusion Parental Portal (<https://fusion.lbpsb.qc.ca/login>) continues to grow, providing online access to parents and students. Currently the portal provides student report cards, re-registration options, cafeteria menus, transportation information and online payment for accommodation and courtesy busing. What additional options would you like to see added to Fusion?

SNAC would like the fusion portal to include:

- Individualized Education Plans (IEP) on the fusion portal; including the required monthly communication from the school
- Emergency Medical Forms
- Summer School Registration
- Graduation Pathways
- Link to the list of allowable accommodations for Ministry Exams



Question 5:

The school boards priority is to maintain buildings in the best condition that is possible within the budgets provided by the Ministry of Education. If there are surplus funds available please choose the school and/or centre building component that you believe requires the most service, maintenance or replacement.

Answer in order of importance for SNAC:

1. **Classroom furniture:** with alternative seating options for all types of students and learners. For example standing tables, wobble chairs, exercise balls etc.
2. **Interior upgrade:** wheelchair accessibility, unisex bathrooms for transgender students,
3. **Other:** sensory rooms
4. **Lighting:** sensory friendly lighting in classrooms
5. **Grounds maintenance:** adapted playground equipment options for students with special needs

Question 6:

Other Comments or Suggestions

Provide teachers with the flexibility to truly evaluate student learning through a vast array of means/tools.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this consultation.

Respectfully,

Jennifer DiMarco - Chair
Special Needs Advisory Committee, 2017-2018
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