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## **Special Needs Advisory Committee**

### **Lester B. Pearson School Board**

### **Minutes of the Meeting – February 21, 2018**

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

**In Attendance:** Annette Banton, Angela Berryman, Leanne Blondin, Marie-Hélène David, Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn, Robert Gilmartin, Christine McLean, Sheila Moody, Danny Olivenstein, Maureen Hunt, Franca Kesic, Kathy Robinson, Randi Spanier, Arlene Tennant, Brigitte Valois

**Regrets:** Donnalynn Rainey, Geneviève Raymond-Parent

**No reply:** Mei Feng Chen, Stephanie Shaffer

**Recording Secretaries:** Marie-Hélène David and Sheila Moody

**Observers:** 4 members of the public

**Jennifer DiMarco** called the meeting to order at 6:32pm

#### **1.0 Budget Presentation by France D'Aoust**

France presented an informative review of the budget which will greatly assist in the preparation of our budget consultation policy. SNAC members will receive a PDF copy of France's presentation in a few weeks.

**2.0 Confirmation of Quorum:** Quorum was reached (quorum is considered 9 or half the voting members as per the internal rules)

**3.0 Additions to Agenda:**

**3.1 Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION to approve by Kathy Robinson, seconded by Angela Berryman

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

**4.0 Corrections to Minutes of January 17, 2018**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2018**

MOTION to approve by Randi Spanier seconded by Angela Berryman

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

**5.0 Questions from the Public:**

A parent asked about services and support for children with Dyslexia. In Quebec, dyslexia falls under the “at risk” category of learning difficulties and is not codable. The parent asked if LBPSB has reading specialists trained in the Orton Gillingham program. It was explained that it is up to each individual school to invest in whichever programs they believe would benefit their students. Support for students is made by teachers, resource team and support staff. In addition, the resource team is able to request the input and support of specialists from the school board such as the special needs consultants, psychologists, occupational therapists and speech and therapy professionals. Services from these professionals are not delivered directly to students, rather they are delivered to the staff to support the students. Some suggestions were offered to the parent such as consulting LEARN. Upon approval from the principal it is also possible to consider arranging funding for the programs for students with dyslexia from the local Home & School, Parent Participation Organization (PPO) or set up a grant through the Pearson Educational Foundation (PEF).

**6.0 Business Arising**

**6.1 Transportation for student with special needs incident report**

SNAC was contacted following an incident which occurred with a bus transporting several special needs students. Complaints have been made as to how the situation was handled. Parents shared that they were not contacted quickly enough and the children were left on the bus too long and were cold as

the bus was turned off and left scared. The parents asked for SNAC to share the information with the appropriate people to look into the incidents and protocols. SNAC members questioned whether protocols are already in place that were not followed or whether new protocols need to be put in place. Some suggestions in this specific situation were to have an emergency kit on every bus with items such as a shovel and blankets etc). SNAC was informed that meetings have already taken place to review the incident. The Parents Committee is also aware and looking into the incident. A decision was made to have the SNAC Chair email the Transportation Advisory Committee Chair to follow the parent request an inform them of the incident and look into the protocols currently in place.

### **6.2 Consultation: Budget (Jen)**

Angela to create the final draft and make it accessible to all for review. Jen will send her the initial draft with what has been discussed in the last few meetings.

### **6.3 Consultation: Extra Curricular Activities and Field Trip Policy (Kathy)**

The subcommittee has met and has started drafting the response. Kathy asked all SNAC members to provide specific examples by March 10th.

### **6.4 Subcommittee: Parent to Parent Workshop Tuesday March 27, 2018**

- The subcommittee has been meeting and has a title for the workshop.
  - The Art and Science of the IEP Process...  
Promoting parental engagement in our children's education.
- Jen will send the PDF to all members to share widely with their friends and schools.
- We are asking all members to be available as of 6:30pm to help prepare folders and receive the guests.

## **7.0 Reports**

### **7.1 SNAC Report to Parents' Committee and Council (Jen DiMarco)**

Available on the website under External reports:

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/ExternalReports/page.asp>

## **7.2 Administration (Cindy Finn)**

Report is in the kit.

- Elementary Open Houses took place in the month of January. Re-registration and new registrations for the 2018-19 school year are underway. This year, re-registration for all returning students is available through Fusion.
- The Student Services Department will soon begin to review the situations for new students with special needs who will be coming into our system for the first time or transitioning to a different level or program for 2018-19. This assists in planning supports needed for next school year.
- Workshops were offered on the board-wide professional day on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Educational Services and Student Services offered sessions for teachers on a variety of topics. An orientation session was also held for new integration aides by consultants in Student Services.
- There will be another screening for new integration aides next week.

## **7.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny Olivenstein)**

Report is in the kit.

- Extra curricular and field trip policy consultation - Danny presented SNAC perspective to the Council and it was well received.
- Retiring packages for administrators are changing - it's possible that more administrators than average will retire in July 2019 to avoid the change in policy
- Transco has rejected offer and there will be a one day strike (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>) - any further days off and we can look to change carriers
- School board election – council asked the govt to postpone the elections because of parents not being registered in right language group. As soon as child graduates from English system, the parents go into the French voting pool unless they request a change.

## **7.4 Special Needs Parent Commissioner Report (Angela Berryman)**

- Specialized Programs & Students With Special Needs: Mary Rutherford spoke to concerns regarding student segregation as a result of programs being offered; creating an imbalance amongst schools in their ratios of students with special

needs (comments can be viewed at [http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/content/webcasting/20180129\\_brd.html](http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/content/webcasting/20180129_brd.html) \*start the video at 2:47\*)

**Concerns regarding:** Not receiving the monthly communications for child on IEP, feeling that their child's IEP does not address child's sensory needs, frustration of not being able to afford tutoring for child with speech impairment, not knowing what to expect when school suspects their child has dyslexia and dysgraphia, and lack of progress on child's IEP. Concerns were from multiple parents.

Question regarding occupational therapy and if it is made available in the school setting. It was explained that LBPSB does have occupational therapists however they do not do 1:1 therapy with a student. Rather they can observe and make recommendations to the resource team on tools that will help the child in the classroom. For example alternative seating options, special pencil grips, movement breaks etc.

#### **7.5 Parents' Committee (Donnalynn Rainey)**

Donnalynn was absent. Meeting summary report can be found on the PC website here: [http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/PC\\_Meeting\\_Summary\\_Report-20180201.pdf](http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/PC_Meeting_Summary_Report-20180201.pdf)

#### **7.6 Programs & Services Committee (Geneviève Raymond-Parent )**

Genevieve was absent so no report submitted

Angela suggested that instead of having a report section for this committee we have a standing item for SNAC to submit questions to programs & services. Jen or Angela could send report to Chair.

#### **7.7 P.T.U. (Arlene Tennant)**

- There are current concerns in finding substitute integration aides when the regular aides are ill
- Integration Aide positions are not full time posts (they are considered full time at 25 hours per week) and often issues with students with special

needs occur in the early AM and late in the day when integration aides are often not scheduled.

- Per Cindy, the school board has lots of CVs and continues to have screenings (the next one is next week) however not every applicant will pass screenings. Those that do pass may also turn the job down as they are not interested in the location of the post or the limited hours of the post.

#### **7.8 P.A.S.A. (Brigitte Valois)**

- Very busy with re-registration
- First time using Fusion Portal for re-registration
  - reporting back glitches to IT but mostly going well.
- Parents of children entering HS are calling to know more about the continuity of their children's IEP from grade 6.
- HS planning some type of substitution for mini day (On a PED day or shadow during regular day)
- Some schools that support off island students are full for kindergarten next year (since siblings have priority) and the office has been redirecting parents to another school.

#### **7.9 Professionals P.E.P. (Maureen Hunt)**

No report given

#### **7.10 I.A.S.S. (Robert Gilmartin)**

No report given

#### **7.11 Treasurer's Report (Randi Spanier)**

See updated budget report in kit.

#### **7.12 Communication Liaison's Report (Jennifer DiMarco)**

Since our January meeting there have been 569 hits to our SNAC main page and to our 50 webcasts page.

We have already received several email RSVPs for our parent to parent evening in March.

## 8.0 Correspondence

We have received correspondence on a variety of upcoming workshops:

- Montreal Centre for Learning Disabilities is holding their conference on April 22 at the Ruby Foos Hotel. Registration information can be found here <http://ldmontreal.ca/>
- Autism Awareness Centre is holding a conference in Ottawa on April 16 & 17 Brenda Smith Myles and Scott Bellini will be presenting <https://autismawarenesscentre.com/shop/conferences-training/>

Autisme Karate will be opening a West Island location on Hymus near Boul St Jean in Spring 2018 <https://www.autismekarate.com>

A self advocacy group for adolescents and young adults on the Autism Spectrum is being organized by RDI Consultant Francesca Dansereau.

There was a great sledge hockey demonstration held in DDO

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/west-island-gazette/dollard-plays-host-to-sledge-hockey-exhibition>

## 8.0 Varia

none

## 9.0 Questions from the Public

There was a question about suspending a child as a result of a behaviour which is directly associated with their diagnosis of Autism. The parent and the principal agree suspension is not working but resource and principal insist they must impose a consequence for the behaviour. The child does receive integration aide support.

- LBPSB has a safe school policy but the principal decides on sanctions (case by case basis).
- It was suggested the parent speak to the resource team and principal to encourage them to involve the psychologist, autism consultant and special needs consultant

## **10.0 Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Robert Gilmartin, seconded by Randi Spanier

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29PM

### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.

We begin early as we will have a Special CASP Presentation by Jade Lawsane - Autism Consultant and Pamela Normandin - Special Needs Consultant .

The presentation will be closed to only SNAC members, with the regular meeting to follow.