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## Special Needs Advisory Committee Lester B. Pearson School Board

### Minutes of the Meeting – March 21, 2018 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval, Room 221

**In Attendance:** Angela Berryman, Leanne Blondin, Jennifer DiMarco, Robert Gilmartin, Christine McLean, Sheila Moody, Danny Olivenstein, Maureen Hunt, Donnalynn Rainey, Geneviève Raymond-Parent, Kathy Robinson, Randi Spanier, Mei Feng Chen, Stephanie Shaffer, Marie-Eve Claude (for Cindy)

**Regrets:** Annette Banton, Marie-Hélène David, Arlene Tennant, Cindy Finn, Brigitte Valois, Franca Kesic

**No reply:** none

**Recording Secretary:** Sheila Moody

**Observers:** no members of the public were in attendance

**Jennifer DiMarco** called the meeting to order at 6:40pm

#### **1.0 CASP Presentation by Jade Lawsane - Autism Consultant and Pamela Normandin Special Needs Consultant**

**CASP** stands for: **C**ompetency-based **A**pproach to **S**ocial **P**articipation

SNAC was pleased to receive a very interesting presentation on CASP.

CASP is a new educational program designed by the Ministry of Education for students with moderate to severe intellectual disability. The program aims to develop students' competencies so that they may participate as fully as possible in society. It is for students aged 6-15. This year, the program is operational in most of the Lester B Elementary schools and one high school (Beaconsfield High School). The program puts the focus on social competencies, life skills and functional skills and embeds academics into them, rather than the traditional focus on

academics. It focuses not simply on acquiring skills, but acquiring, applying and generalizing the skills. The program is extremely individualized - not all students are working on the same competency at the same time.

**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:** Stephanie asked to add 1 event under varia

**3.1 Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION to approve by Genevieve Raymond-Parent, seconded by Leanne Blondin  
MOTION carried by unanimous vote

**4.0 Corrections to Minutes of February 21, 2018**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes of February 21, 2018**

MOTION to approve by Kathy Robinson, seconded by Christine McLean  
MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

**5.0 Questions from the Public:** There were no members of the public present

**6.0 Business Arising**

**6.1 Update: Transportation for students with special needs incident report (Jen)**

Since our last meeting the SNAC Chair reached out to the Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, Laura Derry. Since the initial email correspondence, SNAC has received communication from another parent whose child was on the special needs bus at the time of the accident. This parent shared similar concerns and disappointment with the fact that they were never contacted regarding the accident. It was their child who texted his parent to inform them that there had been an accident. The parent then contacted the bus company and after a significant delay on hold and a conversation was finally told the location of the bus. The parent retrieved their child, who was mobile and exited through the rear door of the bus. The SNAC Chair, at the parents request, has also shared this email with the Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee. The final email between the two Chairs indicated that the two sets of parents will be contacted and invited to attend the Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting which will be held on Monday April 16th at 5:30PM.

A few other points were raised during the discussion:

- The beginning of the transportation meeting is open to the public
- A SNAC member asked her driver if they had an emergency kit on the special transportation bus & was told they do not - she informed Cindy of this
- SNAC believes there should be both a First Aid Kit and an Emergency Kit (blankets, etc.) on the bus
- Danny will go to the meeting and ask on SNAC's behalf if these 2 kits are on the busses
- There has also been an issue of car seats missing

## **6.2 DRAFT for Approval: Budget Consultation Response due March 30, 2018**

MOTION to approve the Budget Consultation with 2 small edits proposed to question 5 (put wheelchair accessibility first) and question 3, point 2 (no quotes around level the playing field)

MOTION to approve by Randi Spanier, seconded by Christine McLean

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The final version can be found here:

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/246SNACBudgetConsultationResponseFINAL.pdf>

## **6.3 DRAFT for Approval: Extra-Curricular Activities and Field Trip Policy Consultation Response (Kathy)**

The subcommittee met multiple times to create a draft response to this policy. A large thank you to Kathy Robinson for spearheading this subcommittee and all the hard work.

Motion to approve the extra curricular activities and field trip policy consultation with the following changes:

- add extra point on page 1 "Allow every child to participate in whichever capacity they are able"
- page 3, item 4.4 - add closing quotation marks
- page 6, Safety & Security, add comment regarding car seats

MOTION to approve by Angela Berryman, seconded by Donnalyn Rainey

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

The final approved version can be found here

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

There was also a discussion about GB approving field trips that have already occurred which should not, but does happen. Maureen asked about the insurance implications.

#### **6.4 Subcommittee Update: Parent to Parent workshop - Tuesday March 27 @ 7pm (Jen)**

The subcommittee has met several times and the presentation is almost finalized and will be sent to Cindy for final approval. We have over 25 RSVPs already. We ask that all members be present in the boardroom by 6:30pm to help put together the information packages for guests. Also, SNAC members are to spread out and be responsible for writing and collecting questions from each table. Please continue to share the flyer with your schools. Some schools have been wonderful enough to send it through an ERMS message.

### **7.0 Reports / Questions for the following committee**

#### **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 (Marie Eve Claude for Cindy Finn)**

Report is in the kit. Some highlights include:

- The Staffing Process for 2018-19 is now underway. Registration numbers are being reviewed to assist with planning. The process of recruiting candidates for educational administration posts began with an evening of simulation activities taking place on March 14 and continue next with interviews on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Interviews for new teachers take place on March 21.
  - ◆ Marie Eve also mentioned that interviews are happening for new administrators in order to cover off retirements that they expect to happen as a result of the change in pension policy.
- On February 28, a training session was given to a group of professionals from SSD and in-school administrators on working with sensitive information that touched on the sharing of confidential information and record-keeping.
- On March 22, 250 teachers, administrators and professionals from across Quebec will attend a conference on safe and caring schools organized by the Ministry of Education and some of the English school boards. A variety of keynotes and breakout sessions are planned. LBPSB is expected to have a delegation of over 50 people to participate in the event.

### 7.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny Olivenstein)

Report is in the kit. Some highlights include:

#### Programs and Services

Presentation Joan Zachariou, history and social studies consultant, gave a presentation on the new **Financial Literacy** course implemented this year for Sec V students. The 50 instructional hours committed to Financial Literacy came from the previous 100 hours allocated to Contemporary World at Sec.V, which has been reduced to 50 hours. Most, but not all schools, have programmed closed sections for both courses in the same instructional block. The three financial issues examined in the program are: consumer goods and services, entering the workforce and pursuing an education

The program is geared towards helping students develop a critical judgment in managing their personal finances and to develop the confidence and self-knowledge needed for their financial well-being.

#### Sex Education Program

C. Finn reported. The expectation is that sexuality education will become entrenched from grades 1 to secondary 5. This was announced in a letter sent to school boards on December 15th. As of September 2018, all schools are expected to introduce learning in the area of sexuality education. Kindergarten is not part of the legislation but if a school board wishes to introduce it in that grade level, it is possible. Ten to fifteen hours per school year will be consecrated to sexuality education in school. It is not a subject course. It is meant to be infused throughout the curriculum. The Minister pledged continued support to school boards in order to implement this. Resource personnel will be made available for school boards to consult with at the Ministry level. There was a session held on January 25th for school boards. The Ministry provided little information and school boards are still waiting for more answers. Materials are to be translated and shared with all schools in the province. Pilot schools will receive materials first. We have not piloted at the secondary level only at the elementary level. Principals and staff are responsible for delivering the learning content. More information will be given once available.

#### Summer School

- A resolution will be put before council to approve 2 locations for summer school, Beurling Academy and PCHS. Students living off island will be offered busing. Registration will take place on June 28th/29th, 2018 through the Fusion app (except for bridge classes) Classes will run from July 2nd to the 30th and exam schedule will run from July 30th to August 3rd for sec 4 and 5 students. Registration Update S. Colpits reported that at the time of this meeting, out of 1680 grade 6 students, 1451 have re-registered to our high schools and 139 indicated they will be leaving our system. This represents a loss of 9.5%  
Educational Services Report
- DELF exams will be held the week of April 23rd .

## **Pearson Educational Foundation**

- Camp Venture, now in its 10th year, is a 2-week summer day camp in August for 20 elementary students with social, emotional and behavioral difficulties or whose families cannot otherwise afford camp. Teaching through play and reinforcement, the Student Services personnel who created and run the camp help the children develop social skills for success at camp, in school, and for life. Salaries and operating expenses of this camp are paid 100% by donations, with no government funding

A question was raised as to whether we could use some of our excess SNAC budget to send 1-2 children to this camp. Jen to ask Cindy but Danny believes this is not possible as did many other committee members.

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

no report submitted

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

Meeting summary report can be found on the PC website here:

[http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/PC\\_Meeting\\_Summary\\_Report-20180301.pdf](http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/PC_Meeting_Summary_Report-20180301.pdf)

There will be a joint standing subcommittees Elementary East, Elementary West, High School meeting on Thursday, March 22 at 7:00pm

The topic will be Anti-Bullying and Anti-Violence. The presentation will be given by the Regional Directors and Cindy Finn, Director of Student Services Department will be there to help answer any questions that may arise.

- The meeting is not open to the general public however SNAC members may attend.

Donnalynn mentioned that lately, PC has been creating sub-committees to address various issues

Angela raised concern that PC has gotten so large that SNAC's voice is getting lost at regular meetings

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

Angela requested that we ask if we can use the CASP Learning Target Document with children on modified programs

**7.7 P.T.U. (Arlene Tennant):** Absent. No report.

**7.8 P.A.S.A. (Brigitte Valois):** Absent - interviewing teachers. No report.

**7.9 Professionals P.E.P. (Maureen Hunt):** Verbal report. They have sent in a response to the Field Trip Consultation.

**7.10 I.A.S.S. (Robert Gilmartin):** No report

Question about priority pools - Jen to add this on "did you know" slide for Parent to Parent presentation

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

See updated budget report in kit.

- Last chance for members to register for the MCLD conference where we have earmarked funds
- It was discussed if we can use some of our funds this year by securing a deposit for a speaker for next year or perhaps also organize an event this year in May

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

Since our January meeting there have been 305 hits to our SNAC main page and 57 to our webcasts page.

We have already received several email RSVPs for our parent to parent evening next week.

A parent wrote in asking who she needs to contact to help support the continuation of a closed classroom for her child with dyslexia. Her child has made significant progress and she would like this classroom arrangement to continue next year and wanted to know who she should ask or write to. (Answer - the principal of the school)

## 8.0 Correspondence

Upcoming Workshops :

MCLD Conference April 22 - Ruby Foo's Hotel All day parent conference <http://ldmontreal.ca/>

McGill Effective Parenting Seminars - Tuesday Evenings April 3 to May 1

[www.mcgill.ca/edu-ecp/ep2018](http://www.mcgill.ca/edu-ecp/ep2018)

Champlain College - May 23 - Healing ourselves, healing others conference [www.qae-aeq.com](http://www.qae-aeq.com)

- Genevieve is attending workshops on ASD in April/May - is willing to share what she learns
- Angela and Kathy to share learnings in April from the solving challenging behaviours conference they attended

## 9.0 Varia

- Stephanie mentioned the fun for all fair on April 14th from 1-4 in Ville St Laurent <http://inspirationsnewsmtl.blogspot.ca/2018/04/fun-for-all-fair-loisirs-et-sports-pour.html>
- Leanne had a parent ask about IEP accommodations for a child in the sports etudes program - suggested they talk to coordinator and if not happy, follow complaint procedure.

## 10.0 Questions from the Public: none

## 11.0 Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Rob Gilmartin , seconded by Stephanie Shaffer

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23PM

## Next Meeting:

Wednesday April 18, 2018 at 7PM