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## **Special Needs Advisory Committee**

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

## **Minutes of the Meeting – January 17, 2018**

**Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board**  
**1925 Brookdale, Dorval, Room 106/107/108**

**In Attendance:** Annette Banton, Angela Berryman, Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn, Robert Gilmartin, Sheila Moody, Danny Olivenstein (Commissioner), Stephanie Shaffer, Maureen Hunt, Franca Kesic, Donnalynn Rainey, Randi Spanier, Brigitte Valois

**Regrets:** Marie-Hélène David, Kathy Robinson, Christine McLean, Geneviève Raymond-Parent, Arlene Tennant, Leanne Blondin

**No reply:** Mei Feng Chen

**Recording Secretary:** Sheila Moody

**Observers:** none

**Jennifer DiMarco** called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

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

### **2.0 Additions to Agenda:**

Add 6.13 Parents Committee Parent2Parent Newsletter. Submission from SNAC

### **2.1 Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION to approve by Stephanie Shaffer, seconded by Donnalynn Rainey

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

### **3.0 Corrections to Minutes of November 15, 2017**

On page 2, “than” instead of “then”

On page 3, ... codes back from the government are by April

On page 5, section 6.4 - Riverdale not Riverside

On page 8, section 7.10 - ... and Robert was appointed the IASS rep on SNAC

### **3.1 Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2017 (with above corrections)**

MOTION to approve by Randi Spanier , seconded by Sheila Moody

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

### **4.0 Questions from the Public:** No public in attendance

### **5.0 Business Arising**

#### **5.1 Consultation: Evaluation on Student Learning Policy**

A special meeting was held on December 11, 2017 to review the policy and draft SNAC’s response. A considerable amount of input was provided by Angela Berryman and served as a guide, with Brigitte Valois providing a lot of helpful perspective. The submitted draft is a result of this and was approved, with the following changes:

Page 3, Under General Feedback,

point 1, ... at the board/school level, where possible

point 4, principle (not principal)

point 5, Keeping focus on development... (delete of)

Page 4, first sentence - differentiated (not differentiate)

MOTION to approve with above changes by Angela Berryman, seconded by Donnalynn Rainey

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

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

Larger discussion will be postponed until next meeting as we will have our budget presentation in February. Jen reviewed some points to have the committee start thinking about our response and directed us to the sections that pertain directly to SNAC - sections 9, 13 and 16. She will begin a google doc for discussion purposes.

### **5.3 Consultation: Extra Curricular Activities and Field Trip Policy (Jen)**

Arlene sent in some feedback to be considered by the subcommittee that was formed to formulate the response. Kathy will head the subcommittee which also includes Angela, Stephanie, Jen and Sheila.

### **5.4 Discussion of Parent to Parent Workshop**

The date has been set for March 27, 2017 at 7pm. A save the date will be sent to the parents committee to be included in the Parent2Parent Newsletter. A subcommittee has been formed to work on this and will include Jen, Maureen, Angela and Sheila. A couple of ideas in terms of the content and title of the evening were put forth and include:

Navigating the IEP process

- Being your child's best advocate, a parent to parent interaction

The Art & Science of supporting your child on an IEP in the school system

It was noted that since the majority of questions that come into the snac email and Angela in her role as parent commissioner for special needs are regarding IEPs, how to make a complaint should you be unhappy and parents rights it is certainly something we need to address in our workshop.

## **6.0 Reports**

### **6.1 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>

## **6.2 Administration (Cindy Finn)**

Dr. Finn highlighted 4 key areas:

- ❖ Planning for next year
  - With kindergarten registration beginning this month, children whose parents have flagged any special needs are being looked at, to try to plan for the needs in September (consents, resources, etc.)
- ❖ Deep Learning Framework
  - Learning is more than knowledge acquisition
  - Focuses on the “Six C’s” as the fundamental building blocks of 21st century schools: Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Citizenship, Character & Communication
  - In December teaching teams from the 7 pilot schools and SSD and ESD participated in an intensive deep learning training at the Pearson Electrotechnology Centre
- ❖ Announcement in December by Premier Couillard that Sex Education will be mandatory and must be fully implemented as of September 2018
  - It has been piloted in 2 elementary schools (Riverview and Evergreen)
  - No details on training as yet so timeline is concerning
  - SSD is working hard to get the curriculum drafts from the MEES
  - There has been a consideration for special needs children in the pilot process
- ❖ Process for validating special needs codes has changed
  - This is a transitional year
  - The idea is that the ministry will decide ahead of time to reject a certain % of requests (not codes, just funding)
  - The belief is that this will allow them to be more flexible with funding and will also save work/time for some professionals, increasing their time working with children versus filling out paperwork.

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

#### **Summer School**

The board is looking at holding summer school in only one location this coming year. Off Island and Pierrefonds/ DDO bussing issues will be looked at. This arrangement will cut down on costs with only one Principal and 2 Vice-principals needed. There will also be virtual classes for bridge courses

#### **Professional Development events:**

SSD hosted an innovative and exciting professional day for our students. A conference was organized for students with special needs particularly those with intellectual challenges. Workshops were organized and we sent students to Champlain College. It was a very successful day. Students attended a variety of workshops.

#### **Continuing /Vocational Education Report**

The Olympiades will be held in May 2018. P. Pedroso informed the members that her plan is to take grades 5 and 6 students to the Olympiades at Place Bonaventure in May 2018.

#### **Mini Day**

Last year was the last official mini day. We talked about what we're doing and planning what to do in its place. Discussions began with high school teams and we're looking at the relevance and cost and talked about what we could do differently. The following were discussed. Schools are looking at where there are natural groupings. Discussions were had in the three regions with a view to contributing to transition activities that students would take part in elementary and high schools. High schools will decide to invite schools in. Guidance counselors will visit elementary schools, create a booklet and talk about the transition to high school with students. High schools will organize a local activity for them

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

Angela discussed the following:

- ❖ November and December were quiet in terms of parent contact however there were many meetings
- ❖ Long Term planning is being discussed - 5 years out, 10 years out
  - It is important to prioritize needs
  - As enrolment falls, funding will too, so we may have to give up some things and need to be ready to prioritize what is most important for the success of the children

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

November meeting summary report:

[http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/Special\\_PC\\_Meeting\\_Summary\\_Report-20171130.pdf](http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/Special_PC_Meeting_Summary_Report-20171130.pdf)

January meeting summary report:

[http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/PC\\_Meeting\\_Summary\\_Report-20180111.pdf](http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/PC_Meeting_Summary_Report-20180111.pdf)

Some additional points raised by Donnalynn:

- ❖ Donnalynn mentioned at the PC meeting that SNAC would like to attend open houses and that same evening, Jen received an inquiry from a school that same evening and responded
- ❖ Donnalynn will share SNAC's response to student learning on Basecamp as PC did not submit their own response
- ❖ There is a joint subcommittee meeting on January 24th with presentations on the Fusion portal and Learn Quebec - all parents of LBPSB are welcome to attend. A facebook event will be made by PC.

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

Geneviève was absent but Cindy gave a verbal report which included:

- ❖ They had a brief presentation from Steven Colpitts on the Annual Report
- ❖ There will not be a TOPS show this year - instead they focus more on creative and fine arts
- ❖ They reviewed the field trip policy

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

Arlene was absent. No written report was submitted.

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

There was no written report submitted and Brigitte confirmed that there was nothing new to report.

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

Maureen reported that they have been working on consultation responses - student learning is complete and they are currently looking at the field trip policy.

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

No written report submitted and Robert confirmed there was nothing new to report.

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

See updated budget report in kit

- ❖ We have added earmarked areas on the budget based on past year's expenses. This year we will focus more on parent to parent interactions and workshops as we have plenty of publicity materials already for our events. Earmarks will be adjusted to represent this in February treasurer's report.
- ❖ We agreed to send 2 members to the conference on February 20th entitled "Solving Challenging Behaviours: Connecting with Autism and

other Individual Disabilities” and up to 4 representatives to the MCLD 2018 Parent Conference on April 22nd . Conference attendees will be expected to fill out the workshop form and present back to the committee with any written materials used so we may all learn from the experience.

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

Since our November meeting there have been 544 hits to our SNAC main page and 49 to our webcasts page. There have been just under 10 unique emails to SNAC mostly pertaining to IEPs.

### **6.13 Parents Committee Parent2Parent Newsletter (Jennifer)**

SNAC Chair has heard back from PC agreeing to add a SNAC section on the newsletter about our upcoming event. It was agreed that Jen will send a save the date with the date and time. (Tuesday March 27 at 7pm )

## **7.0 Correspondence**

We have received correspondence on a variety of upcoming workshops:

February 3rd, 2018 2:00 p.m. An incredibly powerful show highlighting the "perspectives" of families living with an intellectual disability or autism. Perspectives one year later. Lindsay Place High School 10\$ general public at the door 5\$ for WIAIH participants Profits benefiting WIAIH

February 6 7-8:30pm Picky Eaters and Resistant Feeders: An overview of Challenging Eaters and Healthy Tips organized by the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped

February 20 9-5pm Solving Challenging Behaviours: Connecting with Autism and other Invisible Disabilities Held at the Centre Multisports in Vaudreuil

<https://www.collaborative-solutions.ca/connecting-with-behaviour>



## **8.0 Varia**

- ❖ Donnalynn mentioned that SNAC rep and alt to PC still do not have emails. Jen said she would contact the chair of PC.
- ❖ A number of activities for students with special needs were discussed (Mighty Hawks soccer, Autisme Karate, Proset Autism tennis) Jen will post them on the SNAC website

## **9.0 Questions from the Public**

none

## **10.0 Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Robert Gilmartin, seconded by Donnalynn Rainey

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37pm

### **Next Meeting:**

Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm. It is beginning early as we will have a Special Budget Presentation by Mme France D'Aoust, Director of Financial Services. The presentation will be closed to only SNAC members, with the regular meeting to follow.