



Website <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca>
Email: snac@lbpearson.ca

Special Needs Advisory Committee Lester B. Pearson School Board

Minutes of the Meeting – April 18, 2018 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval, Room 221

In Attendance: Annette Banton, Angela Berryman, Leeann Blondin, Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn, Robert Gilmartin, Franca Kesic, Christine McLean, Sheila Moody, Danny Olivenstein, Maureen Hunt, Donnalynn Rainey, Kathy Robinson, Stephanie Shaffer, Randi Spanier, Arlene Tennant, Brigitte Valois

Regrets: Marie-Hélène David

No reply: Mei Feng Chen, Genevieve Raymond-Parent

Recording Secretary: Sheila Moody

Observers: None

Jennifer DiMarco called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

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:

2.1 Approval of Agenda:

MOTION to approve by Angela Berryman , seconded by Brigitte Valois
MOTION carried by unanimous vote

3.0 Corrections to Minutes of March 21, 2018

4.1 Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2018

One small change to minutes in section 7.9

MOTION to approve with this change by Angela Berryman, seconded by Leanne Blondin

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

4.0 Questions from the Public: No public in attendance

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 Feedback from our March Parent to Parent Event (Jen)

Jen mentioned that the sub-committee has been working through the Q&A document and that all questions have been answered (and are out for review/approval). She also shared the survey results. One point of note is that many people heard about the event through their school - Request that Brigitte thank PASA for sending the invitation down to their school populations.

5.2 Consultation : Three Year Plan of Allocation and Destination of Immovables Response Due May 20

We need to draft a response to be approved by the next meeting.

5.3 Consultation: Commitment to Success Plan 2018-2022 Response Due May 20

Previous years response is up on the SNAC website under consultations. Angela to work on response this year. It was mentioned that it would be a good idea to reinforce our original points. Some points to include:

- Students on modified IEPs - no measure for success - we had specific recommendations in our last response (could we use CASP template?)
- Extra curricular inclusion
- Tell them from me - if they can't/don't respond to survey - how do we measure their wellness?

5.4 IEP Rep on Governing Board Subcommittee Update (Angela)

- We discussed changing the name and getting council's approval (one idea - communication liaison to SNAC).
- Another idea: creating video clips for GB's to show
- Angela to find out if we can talk to GB chairs directly or do we have to continue to go through PC
- Jen to email PC Chair to let them know we are changing this role
- Kathy to get on sub-committee for PC AGA to make sure SNAC is represented

5.5 New SNAC Parent Handbook Subcommittee Update (Angela and Stephanie)

- Send any input to Angela or Stephanie
- Cindy mentioned that coding is difficult to summarize in the handbook and the process is changing as we speak so perhaps remove this section so it isn't out of date
- Jen said we should add that we review consultations and receive presentations at the committee but also provide presentations / workshops to the special needs parent community
- Kathy said we should add the key roles (chair, rep to PC, etc.)

5.6 Parent to Parent Fall Event - Speaker Possibilities

Discussed if a speaker could bill us in advance (no). However, if they consult with us now to plan the speaking engagement, we can claim the charge for the consultation this fiscal and then the balance for the talk next fiscal.

5.7 SNAC End of Year Dinner

- We are going to have a dinner at the board catered by Scarolie's Pasta Emporium on St. Jean
- Jen to coordinate menu respecting dietary restrictions
- We will try to organize a speaker at this meeting - send any suggestions to Jen
- We will also invite this years IEP parent representatives on Governing Board to thank them for their service

5.8 SNAC AGA in September - Date Selection

Jen has been in touch with the Chair of PC to see when they will be holding their AGM. They have selected Thursday September 27. Traditionally, SNAC has their AGA prior to PC, since our SNAC members, once selected at our AGA, become official members at PC's AGA.

SNAC voted and has decided to hold our **AGA on Wednesday, September 26th at 7pm**

MOTION to approve by Kathy Robinson, seconded by Angela Berryman

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

Last year we ordered 120 posters for our AGA from the The Business Box and paid just over \$155 taxes in.

MOTION to approve the purchase of 120 posters by Kathy Robinson, seconded by Stephanie Shaffer

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

Jen will contact the business box and have them do a mock up to approve at our May meeting.

6.0 Reports / Questions for the following committee

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)

Report is in the kit. Some highlights include:

- On April 20th a joint PD (professional development) offering has been made to all Cycle 2 elementary teachers and integration aides. This session will be in an ED camp format and will take place at John Rennie. This PD is jointly supported by ESD and SSD.
- The staffing process for 2018-19 is underway. Admin staffing is progressing with a plan to bring new admin candidates forward at a future Council meeting. Teacher, professional and support staff staffing is progressing in accordance with collective agreement timelines.
- Preparations for the implementation of the sex education content are underway. M-E Claude, the Assistant Director of SSD and the SSD Health Promotion Consultant working on this dossier continue to gather resources. Meetings with in school administration have been held to introduce them to the ministerial content and review the materials we have been building for the last several years.
- Administrators from France and Spain will be touring our school board the week of April 23. A presentation on special needs will be given by Cindy Finn to the French delegation. They are interested in bilingual education.

6.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny Olivenstein)

Report is in the kit. Some highlights include:

LBPSB Annual Report –2016-2017

- The 2016-2017 Lester B. Pearson School Board Annual Report was approved and transmitted to the Minister of Education
- It is available on the website

Building Security:

- B. Côté informed the Committee that the Board will be upgrading the locks in our schools over the next few years (when the doors must be changed anyway) in order to provide for greater security in the event of an incident. The locks can be locked and unlocked from outside as usual with a key but also can be locked and unlocked from the inside. The cost per school is reasonable especially in view of the protection afforded to the students and staff.

Danny also mentioned:

- We are lowering the rental rate on our schools - the objective, as it has always been, is not to make money but to be part of the community. The hope is that by lowering the rate, we will get more usage.
- Fusion: 94% of parents used it to register their kids - still looking for feedback

6.4 Special Needs Parent Commissioner Report (Angela Berryman)

Report in the kit Some highlights include:

- Students Speak up on Bullying & Mental Illness: 2 incredibly brave & inspiring LBPSB students spoke during public question period to share their experiences & ideas on how to better support students. I highly recommend listening to what they had to say. It can be viewed at http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/content/webcasting/20180326_brd.html (starting at 1:17).
- Field Trip and EA Policy Consultation Responses: Many very impressive responses were received, with a good number of responses making specific mention of students with special needs. To view responses visit: http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/admin/Consultations/extra/img/53Extra_Curricular_Activities_Field_Trip_Consultation_Responses.pdf
- **IEP & Support Concerns:** Some parents may not feel that they have the necessary emotional support & mental wellness to effectively work with their child's school to resolve issues; especially when their child is struggling and does not seem to be progressing despite the IEP. The stress of dealing with their

child's diagnosis is exacerbated by feelings of hopelessness when it comes to working collaboratively with the school to find effective solutions. They may experience further frustration when they contact the board for guidance and then are redirected back to their principal, with whom they have already been dealing with unsuccessfully.

6.5 Parents' Committee (Kathy Robinson)

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

http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/PC_Meeting_Summary-Report-20170406.pdf

A point was raised that off island schools seem to be under-represented in terms of attendance - is this because it is far to travel to meetings?

6.6 Questions for Programs & Services Committee (Geneviève Raymond-Parent)

Geneviève was absent. No report submitted

Other SNAC members were present at the last meeting. They received a presentation by Steven Colpitts on Deep Learning Framework. It was suggested that he could perhaps come to a future SNAC meeting (fall next year) to discuss this concept.

6.7 P.T.U. (Arlene Tennant):

Nothing to report

6.8 P.A.S.A. (Brigitte Valois):

- Have received preliminary registration numbers - getting plans started
- Getting ready for exams - planning for IEP considerations (quiet rooms, scribes, etc.)
- Some schools are planning events in lieu of mini day, others are planning a homecoming event for the beginning of the school year
- Articulation meetings are starting with grade 6 and grade 7 teams
- Brigitte to extend SNAC's thank you to PASA for sending out ERMS messages for SNAC parent to parent IEP event in March. The feedback forms show that a large number of the guests were informed by their schools. THANK YOU.

6.9 Professionals P.E.P. (Maureen Hunt):

- There is a new President (elected at their AGA).
- Maureen has been re-elected as the PEP rep for SNAC for next year

6.10 I.A.S.S. (Robert Gilmartin):

Nothing to report

6.11 Treasurer's Report (Randi Spanier)

See updated budget report in kit. Still waiting on a few receipts from members.

- It was discussed if we can use some of our funds this year by placing a deposit for a speaker for next year. Jennifer has reached out to a few speakers already
Discussion - What other speakers or topics should we look into?
 - See notes in section 5.6 repaying in advance for speaker
- Funds for AGA posters for next year - 120 posters for \$155 taxes in (last years pricing)
- Last year SNAC ordered 150 notepads with the colour logo for around \$265 plus tax
 - See approval for posters in section 5.8

6.12 Communication Liaison's Report (Jennifer DiMarco)

Since our March meeting there have been 412 hits to our SNAC main page and 54 to our webcasts page.

We also received a few emails thanking us for our parent to parent evening !

7.0 Workshops Attended (Angela and Kathy)

A hard copy of slides presented and a workshop report were provided. It can be found on the SNAC website here <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/254BehaviourWorkshopReportFinal.pdf>

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

Champlain College - May 23 - Healing ourselves, healing others conference www.qae-aeq.com

9.0 Varia

- JEM fundraiser for the Life Animated Film at Guzzo April 19 <http://www.jemworkshop.org/>
- Book launch - **Beautiful Inside & Out** by Dr. Sazini will be held on April 21 - with portions going to Summit school (see flyer in kit)
- Ma Vie avec L'Asperger - June 2nd - Kirkland Library (in French)

10.0 Questions from the Public:

No public in attendance

11.0 Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Robert Gilmartin, seconded by Kathy Robinson

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22PM

Next Meeting:

Wednesday May 16 at 6PM (includes year end dinner and speaker)