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Special Needs Advisory Committee Lester B. Pearson School Board

Minutes of the Meeting – May 16, 2018 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval

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

Regrets: Genevieve Raymond-Parent, Christine McLean

No reply: Mei Feng Chen

Recording Secretary: Marie-Hélène David

Observers: none

Jennifer DiMarco called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

1.0 Special Presentation by Dr. Sazini Nzula, Author of Beautiful Inside and Out

- The subject of stress in parents of children with special needs was discussed, including:
- Fight or flight reaction
- Reasons for not managing stress (and taking care of ourselves): guilt
- The window of opportunity (to help our child): helping our children asap, while they're young, trying every possible option
- Manage stress before it manages you
- Our children need us to be rested and well
- Tips: sleep well, eat well, exercise
- Manage your stressors

- Respond to red lights in your life (e.g. body cues)
- Draft a personalized self-care plan (new things, things you used to like before having your child, to do on your own)
- Schedule it, commit to it
- Check in with yourself
- ABC (automation, breathing [as in vacation], control)
- Commit, ask and accept (help), rest, energy (CARE)

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 Rob Gilmartin, seconded by Kathy Robinson

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

4.0 Corrections to Minutes of April 18 , 2018

4.1 Approval of Minutes of April 18 , 2018

Correction to Leeann's name (misspelled)

MOTION to approve with this change by Brigitte Valois, seconded by Kathy Robinson

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

5.0 Questions from the Public:

none

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 VOTE: Consultation Response Commitment to Success Plan (Angela)

Corrections to be made: Typo on p. 3 Gene strategy, « support schools is (in) developing »

P. 2 Add acronym hsmlld (caps) at the end of first paragraph and capitalize it all through the text.

P.1 « first the Commitment »

Recommendation that the board uses the CASP version of IEP

Extracurricular activities for special needs be extended to options (electives)

Sheila asked if we should explain why point 4 of p. 2 they couldn't complete

MOTION to approve by Annette Banton, seconded by Donnalyne Rainey

Approved unanimously

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/261SNACConsultationResponseCommitmenttoSuccessPlanFinalApproved.pdf>

6.2 VOTE: Consultation Response 3 year plan and destination of immovables (Jen)

MOTION to approve by Kathy Robinson, seconded by Leeann

Approved unanimously

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/262SNACConsultationResponse3yearplanofallocationanddestinationofimmovablesApprovedFINAL.pdf>

6.3 Consultation on the Vision and Value statement of LBPSB - response due June 20

The document was reviewed by the Committee, and there are no recommendations.

MOTION to approve by Randi Spanier, seconded by Kathy Robinson

Approved unanimously

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/265SNACConsultationResponseVisionandValuesStatementFinalAPPROVED.pdf>

6.4 Consultation on the Date Time and Place of the Council of Commissioners Meetings Bylaw1 -response due June 20

The Committee has no comments or recommendations to make on this subject.

Jennifer proposed that the live chat be brought back.

MOTION to approve by Rob Gilmartin, seconded by Brigitte Valois

Approved unanimously

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/264SNACConsultationResponseBylaw1RegularMeetingDatesofCouncilFinalAPPROVED.pdf>

6.5 Consultation on the Date Time and Place of the C of C Exec Meetings Bylaw1E - due June 20

MOTION to approve by Donnalynn Rainey, seconded by Sheila Moody
Approved unanimously

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/263SNACConsultationResponseProposedMeetingDatesofCouncilExecBylaw1EFinalApproved.pdf>

6.6 SNAC AGA update – posters

Jennifer DiMarco, Angela Berryman and Sheila Moody have updated the poster for the AGA.

Vote on the wording

Jennifer to submit the order for the posters to the Business Box. Once made they will ship directly to the school board to the attention of Maureen McAfee in student services - who will then distribute them to the local schools on our behalf along with IEP resource kits. One poster per high school and two posters per elementary school. A request was made that Cindy Finn contact the principals to let them know the posters will be arriving.

Corrections to be made to the poster:

Add :

Who are its members? The committee is made up of parents of students on an IEP, teachers, school administrators, professionals, commissioners, support staff and representatives from community agencies.

Change last line to « are welcome to attend and observe »

MOTION to approve by Randi Spanier, seconded by Marie-Hélène David
Approved Unanimously

6.7 IEP Rep on Governing Board Subcommittee Update (Angela)

Discussion on new name for this role.

A kit about this role and what SNAC is will be built. All SNAC needs is an email where communications can be sent, there will be no meeting to attend.

The subcommittee led by Angela will work on the kit over the summer and present in the fall.

6.8 SNAC Parent Handbook Subcommittee Update (Angela)

This will be worked on over the summer.

6.0 Reports / Questions for the following committee

6.1 SNAC Report to Parents' Committee and Council (Jennifer DiMarco)

Available on the website under External reports:

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

6.2 Administration (Cindy Finn)

The report is in the kit. Some highlights include:

- Administrative changes for schools and centres as well as at Head Office were made at the Council meeting of April 30, 2018. Stephanie Stever was confirmed in the role of Coordinator of Student Services following the resignation of Erik Olsthoorn.
- The Allocation of Resources Committee has completed its work regarding the 2018-19 budget and has submitted to the following report to Council:
http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/content/ARC_RECOMMENDATIONS_April_30_2018.pdf
This is a new committee mandated by law to provide recommendations to Council regarding budgetary matters.
- An information session on Work-Oriented Training Pathway (WOTP) programs was held on the evening of May 9th. Representatives from Student Services were on hand to explain the academic and work study components of these programs. Link to the presentation will be sent by Sheila M.
- A presentation was given to the Parents' Committee on the new sexuality education content on the evening of May 10, 2018. The Ministry of Education thematic content was shared as well as the LBPSB plan for implementing this content in schools in grades 1 through 11 next year.
- On May 29, the board's entrepreneurship gala will be held in celebration of various local school projects. Many of these projects involve elementary and secondary students with special needs. Some of these projects may go on to be recognized at the regional and provincial levels.

6.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny Olivenstein)

The report in the kit. Some highlights:

Annual report contains lots of well-written info

Fusion is well accepted: 94% of parents registered their children through it.

Administrative Staffing – Status Changes for 2018-2019 (Head Office, In-Schools and Centres)

The status of employment of the Head Office, In-School and Centre Administrators listed in the document entitled Administrative Staffing – Status Changes 2018-2019 will take effect July 1, 2018. (on website)

Administrative Appointments – Head Office – Coordinator of Student Services

Stephanie Stever will be appointed Coordinator of Student Services effective May 1, 2018.

Programs and Services

Presentation

Steven Colpits gave a very informative presentation on “DEEP LEARNING”. This is being piloting in some of our elementary as well as, secondary schools this year.

Evaluation of Student Learning

All responses have been received. There was very little feedback on modifications. Most of the changes in the draft policy had to do with compliance to the Education Act. This policy will now move on to council for approval.

Welcome to Kindergarten

This is a program through the Learning Partnership whereby, every child registered for kindergarten, receives a bag of books to help them with their entry into school. The bags are given out at orientation in each school.

Extra-curricular and Field Trip Policy Consultation

All responses are in from the consultative partners and now a meeting will be scheduled to look over and make changes, if necessary, according to responses received.

Grade 6 Retention

After registration numbers are in and compiled, it was reported by Tom Rhymes, that the grade 6 retention rate is 88.3%. This is our highest in the past 8 years. At the time of reporting, 54 students had not yet responded.

Executive Committee

C. Heffernan presented a brief summary of the meeting that the ADG and Commissioner C. Berger attended with members of administration and commissioners of the five Montreal island school boards and the CGTSIM. Discussions surrounded the increase in student populations related to the influx of people coming over the border with the United States. The French on-island boards are struggling with registering new students on almost a daily basis and a lack of space and funding. C. Heffernan pointed out to those present at that meeting that there were many immigrants now coming to Québec whose first language is English and that consideration should be given by the government to allow them to attend our schools under the exceptions allowed by law in order to alleviate the stress on the French language boards. Many of the French school board representatives were not aware that in our elementary and high schools instructions can be up to 80% in French

6.4 Special Needs Parent Commissioner Report (Angela Berryman)

Nothing to report

6.5 Parents' Committee (Kathy Robinson)

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

http://parents.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/cpctest/PC_Meeting_Summary_Report-20170504_final.pdf

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

No report submitted. Rep did not attend the subcommittee or SNAC. See Commissioners report for info from Programs & Services.

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

Arlene will not be back as a PTU representative next year. The PTU will elect a new rep in the fall. Thank you to Arlene for her many years of service to SNAC.

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

Administration changes were announced at last commissioners' meeting. They can be viewed on the LBPSB website

Schools are sharing needs for next year, and placement is looked at.

Summer school will be on Fusion (registration, payment, courses recommended).

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

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report from IASS.

6.11 Treasurer's Report (Randi Spanier)

\$389.14 left as of today (see chart in kit)

IEP resource kit (\$3 per kit): we are looking at printing only the content and buying the folders (which are expensive) somewhere else. Possibility to use the school board's print shop.

Four boxes of IEP kits left. We might send 10 kits to the resource teacher of every school.

We will be asking for quotes from the school board's printshop and a printer.

6.12 Communication Liaison's Report (Jennifer DiMarco)

Since our March meeting there have been hits (269) to our SNAC main page and to our webcasts page.

7.0 Workshops Attended

Bright and quirky child Summit online: SNAC members were provided a pass for this summit covering a multitude of subjects linked to special needs children.

8.0 Correspondence

Upcoming Workshop : Champlain College - May 23 - Healing ourselves, healing others conference www.qae-aeg.com

9.0 Varia

- Ma vie avec L'Asperger - June 2nd - Kirkland Library (in French)
- Supersonics soccer for special needs children starting Saturday, still time to sign up
- Inspirations newest issue is out

10.0 Questions from the Public:

Question from a member asking for an update from the transportation subcommittee meeting about the bus incident. The meeting took place, and the head of the bus company was at the meeting and explained the emergency procedures that were used. The parents of the students involved in the accident were not personally invited, but the meeting was open to the public for the first part.

Question asking how parents receive the IEP resource kits? They can print it from the website or ask their resource teachers. Each school will have some shipped to them mid June with the posters.

12.0 Adjournment

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

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm

Next Meeting:

Our Annual General Assembly - Wednesday September 26th, 2018

THANK YOU for a wonderful year!