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

### **Minutes of the Meeting – March 27, 2019 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval**

#### **In Attendance:**

Tracy Bieszez, Angela Berryman, Lauren Broad, Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn, Robert Gilmartin, Evelyne Hornblower, Maureen Hunt, Franca Kesic, Sheila Moody, Danny Olivenstein, Kathy Robinson, Lindsay Weisbloom,

**Regrets:** Leeann Blondin, Randi Spanier

**No Reply:** Andrea Altman-Levy, Nadine Van Elslande, Julia Orlando, Lisa Mancini, Jacqueline Marien

**Secretary:** Evelyne Hornblower

**Observers:** 0 members of the public

**Jennifer DiMarco** called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

**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:**

Resignation of SNAC member in section 5.9

**2.1 Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION to approve by Rob, seconded by Kathy

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

### **3.0 Minutes Approvals**

#### **3.1 Corrections to Minutes of February , 2019**

- Typos out
- Remove the details of the budget presentation since it was a closed meeting
- Fix sentences in 6.9, 6.10 and 6.11

#### **3.2 Approval of Minutes of February, 2019**

MOTION to approve by Rob, seconded by Lindsay

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

### **4.0 Questions from the public**

No Public in attendance

### **5.0 Business Arising**

#### **5.1 Budget Consultation: Response due March 29, 2019 (Jen)**

Discussed the response letter, changes observed.

Kathy approve and seconded by Lauren

#### **5.2 Consultation: Policy on Major School Change: Response due April 29, 2019 (Danny)**

This policy is currently out for consultation so we can better prepare for the future. There will be changes coming from the minister of education - just look at the government intervention in Riverdale. It is important to try and get ahead of things. The 4 major points to address are timeline, consultation with schools affected, they will have specific points of agreement and 10% of the population to be affected, then you must go to the school board. The policy is a revised policy that is more straightforward to implement. As it is now, the current policy for major school change was from 2007, but needs to be updated as there have been changes to the education act. The new policy will allow for things to happen more quickly over a one year period - instead of the current 18 month. The new policy will be in part of the school boards 3 year plan so they can keep a closer eye on programs and services and be proactive if needed.

Feedback by April 7<sup>th</sup> is required - please email it to Jen. Vote next meeting.

#### **5.3 Consultation: By-Law 1: Time and place of the regular meetings of council (Jen)**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation, we agree with the proposed dates.

Rob and Maureen voted,  
All in favor passed

#### **5.4 Consultation: By-Law 1E: Time and place of the regular meetings of the executive (Jen)**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation, we agree with the proposed dates.

Lindsay and Rob voted,  
All in favor passed

#### **5.5 Parent Information Evening - Update (Jen)**

Next week:

**Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 @ 7 pm**

#### **Understanding the Influence of Stress & Anxiety in our Children and Ourselves Tips and Strategies to help support your anxious child**

The event will take place from 7-9, which will include 30 minutes for question and answers. Volunteers required, 2 greeters at the door, all hands to help create information packages. If you can volunteer please be here at 6:20 at the latest.

Feedback sheet will be in the package. Room setup will have to have round tables.

48 people have confirmed to date - which is ahead of where we normally are at this point.

#### **5.6 English Parents' Committee Association (EPCA) - Special Needs Committee (Jen)**

In the EPCA report delivered through the Parents Committee there is a reference for the last 2 months that they will be creating a Special Needs Committee. See their meeting summary report in the kit. Jen has emailed the chair of the Parents Committee (Shane Ross) requesting for more details on this position. She hasn't heard back yet.

## **5.7 Extracurricular Activities and Field Trip Policy Section 5.3 and Addendum C (Kathy)**

Look at 5.3 new policy. The governing board will have to address this. The voice was heard and that the governing board is supposed to be taking care of Policy 5.3. The item to be added should be the items of adults (ratio) required.

Per Kathy the response seemed to be that the principals do translate the information and take care of advising and ratios.

**Question:** Is there something that the SNAC committee can do?

**Response:** Yes it can be brought up, and the addendum C will be modified to express this policy per the understanding.

It is requested that this be added to the agenda for the next meeting for program and services. If not addressed, we will compose a letter addressing the issue.

Both SNAC P&S representatives are invited to be there (both reg and alternate)

## **5.8 Subcommittee Proposal: IEP Resource Kit Updating (Jen/Angela)**

Proposing a subcommittee in order to rework the new IEP resource kit. Please email if you would like to be a part of this. Most work will be done online. Must be approved by May meeting so can be printed under this years budget.

## **5.9 Resignation of SNAC member**

Jacqueline Marien has resigned her parent position on SNAC through a letter sent to all members. The parent position will be open for next year.

## **6.0 Reports/Questions for the following committees**

### **6.1 SNAC meeting Summary Report to Parents' Committee and Council (Jen)**

The summary report in the kit that was sent out.

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

Full meeting report in kit.

Word used was merger, discussion around merger vs closure.

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

Full meeting report was sent after original meeting kit. Report was highlight.

Issue of the move will be resolved.

The high school history program was discussed J.Zachariou gave an excellent presentation for the available resources.

20 minutes will be added in the elementary school, and transportation will become an issue. Government is implementing this.

Same with the 4yr old K, minimum 6 students and max 14, looking at the space and teacher availability. All need to be kindergarten teachers. Kindergarten teaching with kids will be problematic.

**Question:** Is there special accommodation that will be in effect for the additional 20 minutes of breaks during the day

**Response:** No there is no additional being added, the teachers will have to look at this. Maureen requests we write a letter to outline the concerns with the added 20 minutes and affect to the children with special needs.

#### **6.4 Parent Commissioner - Special Needs (Angela)**

The Quebec government has increased the budget and allocated funding for closed classrooms. They have not defined what a closed classroom is. Although the ministry, through its documentation on educational services for students with special needs, seems to support inclusion, Angela warned that people may want to pay close attention that there is not a “shift” resulting in us moving backwards. Angela noted that some may see funding of closed classrooms as a green light to segregate students. It was noted that while LBPSB supports inclusion, we do have special closed classrooms.

#### **6.5 Parent’s Committee (Jen/Lisa)**

30 schools represented at the last meeting. It was announced that EPCA will be starting a subcommittee and they are looking for two members. It is unclear at this point if the members come from PC or SNAC, more details to come in a follow up letter from EPCA

#### **6.6 Programs & Services Committee (Kathy)**

no questions

#### **6.7 Pearson Teachers Union PTU (Tracy)**

Teachers have requested posters for the Rick Lavoie conference. This is a conference hosted by the Montreal Centre for Learning Disabilities. It was recommended they contact them directly or view the webpage.

#### **6.8 Pearson Association of School Administrators PASA (Lindsay Weisbloom)**

Administration changes were made in February. Lindsay left St Thomas and is now on helping with the closer of Riverdale and the merger with PCHS. Administration is

meeting regularly and is focusing on bringing together the 2 school committees (Riverdale/PCHS) to ensure that needs are met for the merger/closure. Towne Hall meetings took place - it allowed for both communities to have a voice. Questions raised were mostly on the logistics - what will the exam schedule look like, when will school start end, what will transportation look like. Some Riverdale students have gone to PC to tour their WOTP programs. They are in the process of setting up a blanket approval so kids and go back and forth between the two schools. Plans to have students to get to know each other and bring the communities together.

### **6.9 Professionals PEP (Maureen Hunt)**

Members that attended the wellness seminars brought up tools to deal with anxiety.

### **6.10 Independent Association of Support Staff (Rob Gilmartin)**

Mental health initiatives are being supported. Rob will not be there next week.

### **6.11 Treasurer's Report                      SNAC Budget Update (Lauren)**

See report in the meeting kit.                      Budget still on target.

Discussion on upcoming spending - next years AGA posters, revised IEP resource kit (if complete on time), look into sending a poster to each school on Fair vs Equal, year end dinner

### **6.12 Communication Liaison Report (Jen/Sheila)**

Since February there have been 327 hits to the main page and 26 hits to the webcast page.

Multiple emails are coming forward - RSVPs for our event as well as the following questions:

- is summer school mandatory for sec 1
- are students on IEPs also accommodated in summer school?
- how is homebound tutoring organized for students who medically are unable to attend classes?
- is there any update on the CFER program contract at Riverdale?
- How long does a parent wait for support from the autism consultant and inclusive education consultant that was promised back in December by the principal to consult on a child case?

## **7.0 Correspondence**

Pearson Education Foundation newsletter found in kit. Their comedy show coming up at Lakeside Academy on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Impact soccer game on April 28<sup>th</sup>

## **8.0 Varia**

St. Thomas High School has allowed SNAC to have a table at their open house in the evening on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April. It is the night after our Parent Information night. It is being held the same time as the Parents' Committee Meeting - so Jen is unable to attend. Is anyone able to volunteer for a few hours?

## **9.0 Questions from the public**

Questions: on the list of the people required, what does the Asterix mean?

Response: we will ask at the next meeting

## **10.0 Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Rob, seconded by Tracy

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday April 17th at 7pm.