

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

**Minutes of the AGA Meeting – September 25, 2019  
Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board  
1925 Brookdale, Dorval**

**In Attendance:** Camelia Burlec, Sara Grenier, Lisa Mancini, Christina George  
Marc Ferrazzano, Sheila Moody, Kathy Robinson, Tracy Biszez, Rob Gilmartin, Amanda  
Weary, Alan Hill, Nick Oroc, Maureen Hunt, Angela Berryman, Evelyne Hornblower, Danny  
Olivenstein, Sandra Oliveira, Kiley Philp, Nora Salvaggio, Marwa Khattab, Jennifer DiMarco,  
Susana Lazaro, Michelle Wilson, Naomi Leaver, Amelda Willis, Jennifer Roy, Kristine Perez

**Regrets:** Lauren Broad, Dyana Gempel

**Recording Secretary:** Evelyne Hornblower

**Jennifer DiMarco** called the AGA meeting to order at 7: 10 PM

**Welcome and Introduction of Outgoing SNAC Chair Jennifer DiMarco and Director of  
Student Services Stéphanie Stever**

**1.0 Adoption of Agenda for the General Assembly:**

MOTION to approve by Rob, seconded by Lisa  
MOTION carried by unanimous vote

## 2.0 Review of SNAC Mandate

According to the Education Act, Sections 185-187:

“Every school board shall establish an advisory committee on services for handicapped students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities”. (SNAC)

The role of this committee is to:

- Advise the school board on a policy for the organization of educational services for students with special needs
- Advise on the allocation of financial resources to the services intended for these students
- May advise on the implementation of an IEP

### SNAC COMPOSITION

- 5 Non-parent members  
Selected by their respective organization/association
  - PTU - Pearson Teachers Union (Tracy Bieszez / Christina George alt)
  - PEP - Non Teaching Professionals (Maureen Hunt)
  - PASA - Pearson Association of School Administrators (Lindsay Weisbloom / Christine Dane alt)
  - IASS - Independent Association of Support Staff (Robert Gilmartin)
  - WIAIH - West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped
  - our Community representative (Franca Kesic)
- 13 Parent members - selected from a general assembly of parents
- Director General’s representative (non-voting) (Stéphanie Stever)
- Commissioners (non-voting) (Danny Olivenstein)

### 3.0 Review of election procedures

SNAC parent members are selected by their fellow parents at the Annual General Assembly - this evening. You may nominate yourself in person or via email prior to the AGA to the SNAC Chair. Interested parents will take a few minutes to present themselves, state who they are and what school their child on an IEP attends, why they would like to join the committee and what experience (if any) that can bring to the committee.

SNAC parent membership has a total of 13 parents who agree to 2 year terms. We alternate terms so the committee has overlap of veterans and new members.

We currently have 5 Parent Members in their 2nd year of a 2 year term for 2019-2020:

1. Jennifer DiMarco
2. Angela Berryman
3. Sheila Moody
4. Lisa Mancini
5. Evelyne Hornblower

Which means we have **8 parent positions open for 2 year terms tonight.**

Should more than 8 parents step forward, we will have an election via secret ballot.

### 4.0 Presentation of new candidates

Jennifer began by reading two emails she received from parents who wished to be considered.

**11 parents nominated themselves for selection.**

- |     |                 |                                |                         |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1.  | Lauren Broad    | Dorset                         | via email to SNAC Chair |
| 2.  | Dyana Gempel    | Sunshine REACH                 | via email to SNAC Chair |
| 3.  | Nora Salvaggio  | St-Edmund                      |                         |
| 4.  | Kristine Perez  | Margaret Manson                |                         |
| 5.  | Kiley Philp     | John Rennie & Place Cartier    |                         |
| 6.  | Kathy Robinson  | Westwood Sr                    |                         |
| 7.  | Susana Lazaro   | John Rennie                    |                         |
| 8.  | Sara Grenier    | Dorset                         |                         |
| 9.  | Marwa Khattab   | Kingsdale                      |                         |
| 10. | Camelia Burlec  | Beaconsfield HS & Macdonald HS |                         |
| 11. | Michelle Wilson | Margaret Manson                |                         |

## 5.0 Election for the selection of new parent members

Since we had more than 8 parents, an election did take place via secret ballot. Parents were asked to list their top 8 names.

Danny, Marie-Eve and Stéphanie counted the ballots in a private room.

Congratulations to the following 7 parents:

1. Lauren Broad
2. Dyana Gempel
3. Nora Salvaggio
4. Kiley Philp
5. Kathy Robinson
6. Susana Lazaro
7. Michelle Willson

There was a tie between Kristine Perez and Marwa Khattab therefore a second election via secret ballot took place

Congratulations to 8. Marwa Khattab

Jennifer explained that all parent members of SNAC are selected at the SNAC AGA but the list is then submitted to the Parents' Committee for approval. This will be done at the PC AGA which is taking place on September 26, 2019 at 7PM. Jennifer will attend on behalf of SNAC to present our committee for approval.

Parent Name	Role / Committee	School	Year
<b>Jennifer DiMarco</b>	Chair / Website / Emails	St. Thomas High School	Year 2 of 2
<b>Angela Berryman</b>	Parent Commissioner - Special Needs	Macdonald HS	Year 2 of 2
<b>Sheila Moody</b>	Co-Vice Chair High School / Emails	PCHS	Year 2 of 2
<b>Lisa Mancini</b>	Co-Vice Chair Elementary / Rep to Parents' Committee	Christmas Park	Year 2 of 2
<b>Evelyne Hornblower</b>	Secretary	St. John Fisher	Year 2 of 2
<b>Lauren Broad</b>	Treasurer	Dorset Elementary	Year 1 of 2

<b>Kathy Robinson</b>	Rep to Programs & Services	Westwood Sr.	Year 1 of 2
<b>Michelle Wilson</b>	Alt Rep to Programs & Services	Margaret Manson	Year 1 of 2
<b>Susana Lazaro</b>	Alt Rep to Parents' Committee	John Rennie HS	Year 1 of 2
<b>Marwa Khattab</b>		Kingsdale	Year 1 of 2
<b>Nora Salvaggio</b>		St. Edmund	Year 1 of 2
<b>Dyana Gempel</b>		Sunshine Academy/ Reach	Year 1 of 2
<b>Kiley Philp</b>		John Rennie/Place Cartier	Year 1 of 2

While the votes were being counted Jennifer spoke to the assembly to answer any questions they may have an also seek their input on a parent information session in the fall.

**Questions received:**

**Q1:** Is there a list of high school programs offered for students with special needs? Is there help from SNAC for transitioning?

**R1:** All schools are different, we recommend that parents attend the open houses to understand what is being offered at each school in order to select the most appropriate High School for their child’s needs. Also important to inform yourself about at the WOTP (Work Orientation Training Pathway) to understand what is offered in 3 or 5 yr programs for those that are not on track for graduation. There are wonderful alternatives for those students. Years ago one of our SNAC members took many hours and created such a document but it is currently out of date as schools are able to add or remove programs based on the current needs of the school.

**Q2:** Does the I.E.P. follow into high school?

**R2:** Yes there are I.E.P.s in high schools. Several meetings take place between the elementary resource team and the high school resource team to discuss the students with special needs and their I.E.P.s. If your child is on an adapted I.E.P. in elementary school they will begin high school on an adapted I.E.P.. If your child is on a modified I.E.P. in elementary school, it doesn’t necessarily mean they will need a full modified I.E.P. in high school. You can modify for one subject or within a competency in a subject. As children grow and mature and support is put in place it is possible in some cases to move from modified to adapted. The important thing to remember is that a modified I.E.P. in high school means not on track for

graduation. It is important as parents to know if your child's I.E.P. is adapted or modified and what that means for their graduation track.

**Q3:** What does adaptive or modified I.E.P. mean?

**R3:** Adaptive means that your child is following the curriculum and allows the child to meet QEP requirements for the grade level they are in by offering them specific strategies to help them stay on track (such as alternative seating, or extra time to do their work or exams, or time to go to a quiet environment to compose themselves between transitions...etc.) Following the regular program with adaptations.

Modified programs allow students to work at their own level by providing them with specific targets or objectives for either one or various subjects, they are catered to the individual depending on their specific needs. They are not working at grade level - for example they could be in grade 4 but working on Grade 2 math. I.E.P.s are reviewed at each report card period - and parents are a very important part in the I.E.P. process. If you have any questions, please know that SNAC has an I.E.P. Resource Kit available for free on their website. We have also included it in your information folder here tonight.

**Q3:** What is the release date for the I.E.P.

**R3:** I.E.P.s are sent out at report card periods. You will usually see the first one in mind to end of October. Parents are an important part of the I.E.P. process. Some schools have in person meetings, others phone parents, others send home drafts and request parent feedback. All schools are different and if you have a specific question you should contact the resource team at your child's school. If your question doesn't get answered, then you can reach out to the principal as it is their responsibility to oversee all I.E.Ps..

Jennifer thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Assembly and encouraged everyone to come to our monthly meetings, go on our website and reach out via email should they have any questions.

**Motion to destroy the ballots:**

Approved by Kiley, seconded by Lisa

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

**6.0 Adjournment of the General Assembly**

Those parent members selected were asked to stay back for the first official meeting of the new committee to select the executive and meeting dates for the year.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Lisa, seconded by Camelia

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The AGA was adjourned at 8:39 pm