

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

### **Minutes of the Meeting – December 11, 2019 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval**

**In Attendance:** Laurence Assouline, Angela Berryman, Lauren Broad, Jennifer DiMarco, Dyana Gampel, Christina George, Evelyne Hornblower, Maureen Hunt, Lisa Mancini, Danny Olivenstein, Kiley Philp, Nora Salvaggio, Randi Spanier, Stéphanie Stever, Lindsay Weisbloom, Michelle Wilson

**Regrets:** Tracy Bieszcz, Franca Kesic, Robert Gilmartin, , Marwa Khattab, Susana Lazaro, Sheila Moody, Kathy Robinson

**No Reply:** none

**Recording Secretary:** Evelyne Hornblower

**Observers:** 2 members of the public were in attendance

**Jennifer DiMarco** called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

#### **1.0 TranXition Program Presentation**

MAB/ Mackay merged with Lethbridge-Layton-Mackay rehabilitation centre. The program is based out of the old MacKay school on Décarie, near Sherbrooke.

They are currently seeking participants for their FREE Transition to Adulthood Program for students aged 15-25. It is an outstanding program for teens and young adults with a motor, visual, hearing or language disability.

The participants are supported by a team of interveners including: an occupational therapist, two special care counsellors, a social worker, a career counsellor and a clinical coordinator. Areas they focus on are residential autonomy, socialization, work and studies and physical & mental well being. One of the SNAC members children has already completed the program and has wonderful things to say about it.

Group intervention is done in a real life setting out in the community...it is not simply clinical. There is also an optional parent/caregiver group that coincides once per month. They have a

variety of group lengths (summer, 6 months, 12 months) for participants to choose from. There is a referral process and they are looking for participants.

Participants can be both already a client of the Lethbridge-Layton-MacKay center, or not. The goal is to support participants and their families along their transition to adulthood, in order to maximize social participation. Referrals can come from school staff or resource teams as well as directly from parents. For those wanting more information on the referral process you can contact Virginie Cousineau the clinical coordinator at [virginie.cousineau.mackay@sss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:virginie.cousineau.mackay@sss.gouv.qc.ca)

The inclusion criteria is the ability to work and function in a group. In the individual component they work on the ability to integrate into a group.

Transition to adulthood: Known from research done and support groups this means going from the known to unknown of adulthood, with a less supportive community. Fear of anticipating the unknown and the future to come.

Logo is someone jumping and transitioning to the other side - jumping onto the cliff (the safe adult side).

Working for the research there are 4 areas of opportunity:

- Residential autonomy (plan own meals, make plans for self)
- Socialization (expand social circle, increase confidence for dating)
- Physical and mental well being (train in gym, manage own health)
- Work and studies (clarify career options, volunteer or paid work)

Intervention plans can be made in order to prepare for group works.

(their intervention plans are specific and attainable)

### Questions

Q: Do you work on all 4 areas or focus on one at a time?

R: They are all quite related and moving forward they will work on primary area (1-2) and have minor components from the areas are related on the smaller programs. Relate to the individuals for the different groups in different areas. They are all kept into consideration, but they chose 1-2. Since it is inclusive, there is a need for a baseline for the group for the peer support required to attain the requested goals.

Q: Who would request them for next step services?

R: For now they are reaching out for all potential steps (trying CLSC, schools...) are open to recommendations. Goal for 2020 is to talk to all schoolboards. Parents can also refer their teens / young adults.

Q: Are you related to the CLSC?

R: Work in the rehab centre (Centre-Ouest) so under greater umbrella.

Type of intervention chosen is group based intervention to look over the basics in the transition to adulthood:

- Emotion management
- First aid
- Organizing an outing
- Getting around the city
- Problem-solving in a new situation
- Communicating with friends
- Cooking...

Practice skills in real life and trying to see what can be worked on in real life situations.

Typically they had a teaching day and outing day along with a few overnight events leading to the final adventure trip. All outings and trips are planned by the participants - from the location to the budget to transportation to ticket purchasing etc. True real life experiences.

Client pathway

Short screening > Monthly info series (first experience starting in spring 2020) > individual meeting > TranXition Group > Post Group

Topics: job search, basic cooking, fitness for free, mindfulness

Long group (12 mth)

Short group ( 6mth)

Summer group (over 6-12 wks)

Other groups in the works

Q: What is the size of a group?

R: 6-8 participants is the ideal group size. Program formed around the groups needs and interests based on interviews and monthly sessions.

The goal is to get as many referrals as possible at the moment to plan the next groups. They have several running during the same time frame.

Q: How long is the response time for communication?

R: Currently 2 week time but depends on the actual amount of referrals in any given week.

Q: is a referral required

R: Yes, it is required.

Q: Do parents take part?

R: Yes there is a Parent / Caregiver Groups (optional):

Information shared, and client led and family centered groups. These are optional, there are amazing speakers available. Started out with no social workers, and year to year they are trying to improve and get more access for others. Parents can select the topics they would like to learn more about. A list of past speakers / topics can also be made available.

Q: How do participants get there, driven by parents or travel on their own?

R: It varies from one individual to the next. Often via parents at first then perhaps adapted transportation or public transit if that is one of the goals of that participant.

If you have any questions or would like information on the forms for referral please contact the clinical coordinator Virginie Cousineau at [Virginie.cousineau.mackay@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:Virginie.cousineau.mackay@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

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

**3.0 Approval of Agenda:**

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

**4.0 Minutes Approvals:**

**4.1 Corrections to the Minutes of November 20, 2019**

on the top of page 3 in 6. 1 change the points to:

- 1- First recommendation is that a representative with special needs experience be appointed.
- 2- Have a parent with a child with special needs on the board of directors.
- 3- Ensure that the people on the board of directors have the training to advocate for students with special needs.

on page 3 in 6.2 change to:

some students with codes require extra aide support to help get dressed, undressed and have proper supervision. It has been difficult organizing this additional aide support without any additional funding provided for the extra 20 minute recess.

on page 5 in 6.5 change to:

At high school level, in I.E.P.'s that are modified the channels of communication are usually clear. When I.E.P.'s are adapted these are not always as clear.

on page 8 in 7.4 change to:

Parents do not know or understand the process should they be unsatisfied with their child's I.E.P. The parents need to understand this and ensure to go through the process and if they should feel they need to, they should make official complaints.

#### **4.2 Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2019**

MOTION to approve by Lauren seconded by Christina

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

#### **5.0 Questions from the Public:**

None

#### **6.0 Business Arising**

##### **6.1 E:vote ratified for Bill 40 letter to the minister of Education (Jen)**

SNAC had taken an evote for the letter to the minister regarding Bill 40. They made the vote official. To date no response has been received by the Minister's office.

MOTION to approve by Michelle, seconded by Nora

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

##### **6.2 VOTE: Letter to DG and to the Minister of Education re: 20 Min Recess (Jen)**

English version of the letter has been approved. SNAC Chair to send the cc to Cindy Finn, Director General of LBPSB.

The letter will be translated to French by Nora to be approved at the January meeting.

Once approved in January both letters will be sent to the Minister.

MOTION to approve by Lisa, seconded by Nora

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

##### **6.3 Update: Inclusion Posters to Schools (Jen)**

Posters will be sent in to Pierrefonds Community High School for students to package with our letter and send out at the end of December or early January.

##### **6.4 Question and Answer Document from Parent Info Session (Jen)**

All questions and answers from the evening and the surveys are being put into one document on google sheets and will then be sent to the inclusive education consultants for approval so we can vote on the final copy to be posted for our January meeting.

## **6.5 Discussion: Alternate SNAC rep to PC**

Susana Lazaro removed herself from the Parents Committee discussion forum called basecamp where the majority of the work on PC is being discussed prior to meetings. She has taken a leave from external committees therefore we need a new SNAC alternate representative at this point who can commit to being a part of basecamp and attend meetings when Lisa is unable to. This is especially important as PC has discussed that they are in the process of creating a newsletter to be sent to ALL LBPSB parents and SNAC would like to be represented, so we need our PC representatives to be active on basecamp and at meetings.

Motion to substitute Susana as SNAC PC Alternate:  
MOTION to approve by Lauren, seconded by Kiley  
MOTION carried by unanimous vote

Lindsay is recommending Nora Salvaggio.  
Nora is happy to replace for the remaining term.

Motion to approve Nora as the new SNAC PC Alternate:  
Approved by Lauren, seconded by Kiley  
Motion carried by unanimous vote

Thank you to Nora for her extra commitment. SNAC Chair will share the change with PC Chair ASAP and introduce her at the December parents committee meeting.

## **6.6 Discussion: Social Media Subcommittee**

A subcommittee has been formed the following are volunteering: Kiley, Dyana, Lisa, Marwa, Nora. They will begin their discussions on the pros and cons of a Facebook page.

## **6.7 Discussion: Subcommittee to finalize new SNAC member kit**

The new SNAC member kit was never finalized. This is something we have wanted to complete. Angela began the document a few years ago and will share the draft so the new subcommittee can finalize it. It is important to have current new members on the subcommittee since they will have the experience of being new and information they wished they knew at the beginning of their term. A subcommittee was formed and members are: Maureen, Jen, Dyana, Nora, Evelyne

## **6.8 Forum 2020 (Stephanie)**

Last year services have been organizing le salon des ITSA, for clients becoming citizens. A collective space were youth and young adults can receive resources (for the 4 areas of opportunity). LBPSB is participating in this event. Unless you live near Verdun it is hard to get to during the year. Not an easy drive to go downtown near Pie IX.

Stephanie would like to promote this type of gathering for the West Island in order to have resources come together and sit at the same table in order to have a session that is more attainable to the audience. Hard to gather the information and make it

accessible to the community in order to assess to the Forum 2020 with different kiosks with different presentations at different times of the event. Examples such as WOTP programs, tranXition, transitions to schools kindergarten to Grade 1, grade 6 to high school, I.E.P.s An opportunity to expose the different schools and their programs and show the different pathways that are available to the parents and the students. TEVA - (in english TSAL) Transition from School to Active Life role to have showcases during a salon in order to host an event. The potential timeline for such and event would be in April.

### **Discussion**

How to get the word out for the parents to come learn.

The idea of a kiosk would be a good idea to come to a place where you can at the very least see what is available.

SNAC members would be pleased to help spread the word and would love to have a table at the event and participate in any capacity needed.

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

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

The summary report was sent in the kit and is available on our website under external reports <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/ExternalReports/page.asp>

### **7.2 Administration (Stéphanie)**

On November 8th FSTT held their annual retreat. They attended a presentation on social emotional learning with Dr. Tara Wilkie.

SSD staff and professionals were happy to take part in the regional ped days, as presenters, but also as enthusiastic participants in these 3 collaborative events. They focused on deepening their common understanding on deep learning concepts and their implementation in our schools.

A few of the workshops school teams received were:

- understanding and addressing the core challenges of ASD
- 10 to Zen - a mindfulness approach in the classroom
- Digging Deeper into socio-emotional learning
- Building Character through Mindfulness.

A team of occupational therapists participated in the K4 Professional Learning Community on a workshop on the milestones in the physical development of preschoolers.

Consultants in Inclusive Education were invited to speak to a group of students at Clearpoint Elementary in preparation for their IBO Summit on their chosen topic of "Children with Special Needs". Two team members from the Health, Promotion & Prevention SSD Team were able to answer questions related to the topic of LGBTQ+ .

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

Full meeting report in kit

Administrative appointments Effective Jan 6th

Rachel Chua Wilson who is currently the Principal at Lakeside Academy is moving to be Principal BHS - Permanent Probationary

Maggie Wilkinson who is currently the Principal Maple Grove Elementary School is moving to be the Principal Lakeside Academy - Permanent Probationary

John Torunian who is currently a Retired Principal is coming out of retirement to be the Principal Maple Grove Elementary School - Temporary

SNAC report was very long, Danny asked each of the schools GB he sits on about the 20-minute recess - everyone has answered that it has been a disaster to implement. Suggestion to write to their MNA, as they are the ones who put this in effect. Winter has not even started and already schools are experiencing difficulties. Students are soaked and will get worse.

Major School Change Final Decision will be at the Council Meeting on Tuesday December 17<sup>th</sup>. Chair of SNAC should have received a special invitation to the pre-meeting and dinner, but has not as of yet. The meeting will be held in the auditorium at John Rennie HS. As all council meetings are open to the public anyone can go. It will also be online on the LBPSB website and facebook page.

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

Nothing to note additional to Danny.

Q: what is the difference between Angela's role as a commissioner and her role on SNAC committee

R: Can lean on Angela for responses and help. Angela sits on council of commissioners and has a vote as a parent commissioner

### **7.5 Parent's Committee (Lisa / Susana)**

On basecamp there is talk of creating a newsletter to send to all parents of LBPSB students.

Next meeting is tomorrow night December 12. Both Lisa and newly appointed alternate rep Nora will be there as well as SNAC Chair. It is important to share during the SNAC report that SNAC wants to be involved in the newsletter.

We also need the passwords for the SNAC rep and SNAC Alt rep email accounts that were created. SNAC Chair will ask again at the meeting and follow up with an email to the PC Chair.



## **7.6 Programs & Services Committee (Kathy / Michelle)**

full report in kit.

Presentation on the strategic plan was given.

Members commented that the Bill 40 letter was very well done. Programs and Services wanted to know if we have received a reply yet? No we have not.

## **7.7 Pearson Teachers Union PTU (Tracy /Christina)**

Attended a workshop and was very informative, there were excellent workshops given and was nice to get out and see the support staff and what is happening in other schools.

It was brought up at many times that there should be more sessions.

## **7.8 Pearson Association of School Administrators PASA (Laurence / Lindsay)**

Reiterated the importance and appreciation of the workshops at region days.

Open houses are ongoing. There was a big push to advertise open houses for schools.

Jen mentioned that parent member has created amazing advertisements specifically to be used for open houses. They should be approved at PC tomorrow so look for them for distribution.

## **7.9 Professionals PEP (Maureen)**

750 attendees for the workshops on region ped days. It was helpful to bring the staff on board to attain the same training and goals.

Professional programs for the daycare workers. Workshops for the daycare and lunch programs.

## **7.10 Independent Association of Support Staff (Rob)**

President re-elected.

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

Nothing to report. Last bill were snacks.

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

Since November 20, there have been 275 hits to the main page and 39 hits to the webcast page. Question regarding homeschooling. How it is to be organized and what the criteria is. Jen will post links on the MSR which will be published online.

## **8.0 Correspondence**

Q: When you get a response for Bill 40 please post.

R: No response as of yet. Will update when / if we receive one.

**9.0 Varia**  
NA

**10.0 Questions from the public**  
None

**11.0 Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Lindsay, seconded by Kiley

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 PM

**Next Meeting:** Next Meeting: Wednesday January 15, 2020 (6:30pm)

Special Presentation by Stephanie on Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec