



Website <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca>
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Special Needs Advisory Committee Lester B. Pearson School Board

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting – May 27, 2020 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval

In Attendance: Laurence Assouline, Angela Berryman, Tracy Bieszcz, Lauren Broad, Jennifer DiMarco, Dyana Gampel, Robert Gilmartin, Evelyne Hornblower, Maureen Hunt, Franca Kesic, Marwa Khattab, Lisa Mancini, Danny Olivenstein, Kiley Philp, Kathy Robinson, Randi Spanier, Stéphanie Stever, Michelle Wilson

Regrets: Sheila Moody, Lindsay Weisbloom

No Reply: Nora Salvaggio, Christina George, Susana Lazaro

Recording Secretary: Evelyne Hornblower

Observers: **closed virtual meeting** 0 members of the public were in attendance

Jennifer DiMarco called the virtual meeting to order at 7:04 pm

1.0 Retirement of Maureen Hunt

Maureen Hunt has worn many different hats over her career. First and foremost, her experiences as a parent of a child with special needs inspired her passion for advocacy and equity. Maureen has worked in various LBPSB elementary schools, secondary schools, and lent a hand in our adult education centres. At Lester B. Pearson she has worked in the role of integration aide, behavior resource technician, non-teaching professional, and syndical representative sitting on SNAC. She is the longest serving member of the Family and School Support and Treatment Team (FSSTT) and has contributed to our understanding of children with behavior challenges. Maureen is a champion for inclusion and equity and she has left her mark on our system. She will be greatly missed by all and has a permanent invitation to come back anytime as a member of the public.

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 agenda by Rob, seconded by Maureen
MOTION carried by unanimous vote

4.0 Minutes Approvals:

4.1 Corrections to the Minutes of April , 2020

none

4.2 Approval of Minutes of April, 2020

MOTION to approve by Rob, seconded by Maureen.
MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 Covid-19 & LBPSB Update (Stephanie)

Thank all the professionals for the support and understanding for the unknowns and agility with the flow of information. Thank you for the support and understanding from the students and their families. May 19th was approaching then May 25th became the target date. School teachers started trying to divide the classrooms for the social distancing measures, much effort was put forth to move forward. May 25th was cancelled as per the Covid situation. Currently the planning kits are for the starting in September and current preparation for the end of year online. Currently trying to adapt and provide as rich an experience to the learners. Students have started on zoom platform learning, and the current high school students are trying to follow-up on the remaining year. Goal to connect with the students and attempt to teach as much as possible for the end of the year work. The rules are still unclear and hopefully this will be as standardised as possible. Specificities have not been established. Currently in all the buildings there are very strict rules for the guidelines from the santé public. There is a strict cataloguing of the ins and outs of the different buildings. Guidelines from the health minister will be respected. Applauding the work that has been done to date to adapt to the situation.

Q: Wonder if the schools will be open for public projects in the summer?

R: Already have partnerships with the cities, depending on the city and the needs this will be looked at as a municipal decision.

Q: With the tools (computers / ipads / internet sticks) lent out, is it working well? Are there still some people working in the school if a family didn't put in their request right away?

A: Always someone on site, and delivery of resources were done by the staff at school. Additional funding was given and available for the students in need.

Q: Are schools going to be doing little videos for the order of events and social distancing?

A: Yes they were ready and started for the school start.

Q: Could we expect each school or region will send out the video?

A: Each school will send this out via communications.

Q: How to address the needs of the anxious children?

A: This is something to address in the future. We are aware the need will be there and we will set up support closer to the date. If there is a need now have parents reach out to staff.

Q: Where additional resources planned out for the entrance of the children with respect to anxiety? Could they do a walk through a day or two before the opening to “see” the new reality?

A: They had different scenarios played out and they were going to have specific planning for the different needs.

Q: Will videos be done for the elementary schools?

A: There will be some, they will be different depending on the schools.

Q: For new kindergarten parents - will there be orientation?

A: They are planning for it, but no specifics to divulge at this time.

5.2 SNAC responses from reopening of schools announcement April 27, 2020 (Jen)

All of the responses and questions have been compiled into a document and shared on the SNAC website and in this kit.

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/341ReopeningofSchoolsResponsesEmailandFacebookFINAL.pdf>

EPCA is also seeking input from parents - see letter in kit.

As per last month's request SNAC chair reached out to the ESMB ACSES Chair. This was the first communication and it was well received. We agreed to combine efforts to write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding parents concerns for reopening, however the following day the minister announced the closure of schools until the fall. We agreed to touch base as things progress closer to the fall. EMSB ACSES Chair asked that we consider collaborating on a letter regarding Law 40.

5.3 Ratification of e-vote from May 23 - Temple Grandin Conference (Jen)

Motion to ratify the e-vote from May 23 :

EMAIL:

A motion to allow for up to 3 members to register for the Temple Grandin online live webinar this Tuesday May 26 from 10am-12pm EST.

We are voting to use some of the budget to allow up to three members to join live since more than one member may want to participate in the online question and answer period that they will be having. The conference will be recorded so all SNAC members who want to view it in the next 3 months can do so with a link the registrants will provide.

Please respond REPLY ALL

Vote 1 of the following: APPROVE or AGAINST or ABSTAIN

I will leave the voting open until Monday May 25 at 3pm (or earlier if everyone responds quickly), which will allow time for the SNAC members to buy their tickets.

If you are interested in attending this webinar LIVE please send me an email separately from this e-vote.

FYI in case you wondered why we are allowed e-votes here is the reasoning:

Since SNAC is an advisory committee, voting by email is possible! Our advisory committee makes recommendations, it does not make decisions having legal effects like governing boards or council. Thank you Stephanie for checking with Genevieve for us and please thank her for answering on a weekend!

As a reminder here is the conference:

For mental health professionals, caregivers and family members who work or live with young people on the spectrum, Temple Grandin likely needs no introduction. As a person living with autism who is also a best-selling author, international presenter and a professor of Animal Science, Dr. Grandin is amongst the first of neurodiversity advocates able to provide the neurotypical world with the invaluable inside narrative of autism.

In this 2-hour webinar, Dr. Grandin will first discuss specific challenges facing children and young people on the spectrum and their caregivers that have arisen in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. With her typical take-no-prisoners forthrightness and candor, she will share insights into how a person with autism may respond the open-ended uncertainty of pandemic progression, the demands of homeschooling, the disruption of established routines, the enforced seclusion of sheltering in place and increased time spent on devices, computers and inside rather than in the outdoors.

The webinar will then be open to Live Q and A so that webinar participants have the chance to ask Dr. Grandin about specific experiences or challenges that they are facing. Join Dr. Grandin in this 2-hour INTERACTIVE Live Webcast and ask Dr. Grandin questions via video/online chat LIVE in real time.

https://leadingedgeseminars.org/event/temple-grandin-live/?fbclid=IwAR2LCjEDZWHg_GuAs8osV4vNZ83WZ5SvtS8o1SC56jpS9jmhQJwvz9_84YQ

13 SNAC Members voted approve: Susana, Lauren, Sheila, Christina, Rob, Michelle, Marwa, Evelyne, Nora, Kathy, Maureen, Lisa, Kiley, Dyana, Angela

Did not receive a vote from : Lindsay or Laurence, Franca

Motion to ratify e-vote approved Lisa, Seconded Franca.

Two members attended the webcast- Lisa and Jennifer

Some Takeaways from the live webcast:

As educators need to focus on the skills and not just the academics. It's amazing that children tend not to make paper airplanes or paper snowflakes anymore. Tasks like these are important for learning how to make mistakes and learn from them.

Spend the pandemic / summer focusing on life skills - mowing the lawn, using appliances for independent living skills such as the washing machine, dryer, the dishwasher, the stove with supervision etc. Learn how to use simple tools like screwdrivers and wrenches. Get an old piece of wood and learn how to use the tools. How to videos such as changing the inner parts of a toilet - very simple to do if you have the tools and know how.

During the pandemic many students with Autism are having difficulty in attending to online classes - are they using a chromebook? There is an intense flicker in the zoom app on chromebooks. Try using an ipad or smartphone instead, the flicker isn't there. Also, do not have the child look at themselves during the zoom call, it is very distracting to watch yourself.

Instead of playing video games alone, have your child research online forums about their special interest. They will find people who are interested in the same things that they can have intelligent conversations with.

Learn to code this summer on simple apps. Coding comes very easily to most with Autism.

5.4 Digital Learning and Educational Software (Angela)

Hoping to have a discussion around this table, talk about digital education, and education around the software. What are the items that we are looking out for for the works and the potential digital learning. A lot of parents are having a lot of trouble with the different platforms. Having some children online at all times is distracting, and children having to look at themselves is sometimes not ideal.

One of the things to worry about are the children with additional anxiety issues, they are unable to focus and some can not understand the social cues.

Concerns would be keeping the attention of kids when distance learning. It's almost impossible to leave kids unattended because they just lose interest so quickly. Smaller groups have been more successful.

Tracy mentions that kids that are passing seem to be there, however a lot of other ones are not available and they are the one that would likely benefit the most. Teachers are teaching each other. Current teacher learning curve more than the others. Concerns are for the special needs children, are they going to have the one on one teaching that is needed?

Jen states that the one on one instruction at the end of class time or at a designated time AFTER the class to get the learning that they need to understand the lessons. Children are having trouble with online learning. They feel worried that they are disturbing teachers by emailing questions.

People have to remember that we are sending them in an inclusive system and that there is a social aspect that is missing from there.

5.5 Vote: Consultation: 3 year plan of allocation and destination of immovables due June 10 (Jen)

No changes to draft created by Jen.

Motion to approve Kiley, seconded by Lisa

All in favour. Approved.

5.6 Bill 40/ Law 40 Update: How it affects SNAC (Angela)

Bill 40 is now law 40, because it is law 40, we would like to have it revoked for the english school boards. Discussion on how this will affect SNAC. Danny is uncertain how this will affect SNAC, looking to get an injunction to stop all the motions. There will no longer be the current committee presented. Will there be subcommittee meetings? Nobody knows.

If elections go ahead and a new board of directors are appointed, and a year later the case goes to court. and if the Bill 40 does not pass, how do you un-elect? The intent is to get an injunction before the courts move forward. When does the council disappear? In theory in November.

Many unknowns about the election, and the members that will be allowed to be elected. Very narrow group of people that can run to be chairs and they will have to be parents. They want to have an election in the middle of Covid.

We do not know how the boards will be held and governed. SNAC as a committee will remain, however the amount of people will potentially change.

Q: On a high level, will SNAC even exist?

A: Yes

5.7 Discussion: September Annual General Assembly & Posters (Jen)

We will have 5 parent members whose terms are officially up once we have the AGA in September :Jennifer, Angela, Lisa, Evelyne and Sheila are at the end of their 2 year term. They are able to put themselves forward for selection again and hope that they do!

The poster for the SNAC AGA has been created but it mentions the school board and commissioners. with law 40 what do we change it to? Just Lester B. Pearson. However we do not need to order posters this year as school is not returning until further notice.

Q: Can mandates be extended? How will the rules change in light of COVID-19? Maureen suggests having a letter written out in order to extend all members for a full year as we would like to extend all the members.

There should be a general letter written to the PC and then posted on our website and in our meeting summary report informing the public of the decisions to extend the mandates such as a draft letter mentioning that due to covid and emergency circumstances terms are extended by 1 year.

Motion to vote to write a letter to the parents committee

MOTION to approve by Kiley, seconded by Lisa.

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

6.0 Reports/Questions for the following committees

6.1 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>

Posted on the website and sent to SNAC Members when it is ready. Reps on the parents committee also share on basecamp for PC.

6.2 Administration (Stéphanie)

Multiple communication packages are being prepared for the upcoming return to school in order to support digital media. Tips and tricks, practices and documents by the Center of excellence for mental health were drafted and packaged in order to comfort our students. Multiple support brochures/presentations are being produced to address the current situation.

6.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny)

report in the kit

April report Sander Luther appointed to student services.

Bill 40 was discussed.

This month:

-Mathieu Canavan was appointed Director of Educational Services of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, effective June 30, 2020 (Permanent Probationary status)

- François Marceau was appointed Director of Financial Services of the Lester B. Pearson School Board, effective at the latest June 30, 2020 (Probationary status).

77% of the parents replied that the kid would not be returning on the original May anticipated opening.

Recommendations by the ARC, will determine how the resources will be attributed. They are the ones who know the necessities of the schools, and they will place the recommendations to the budget, and responses must be given in writing.

Social ranking will also determine to have more funds based on the ranking. (Good for social equity).

Health and social services, all hours and services related to covid are being logged.

The urgency is to do all the consultations as fast as possible. The new green policies will be ready in the beginning of June.

6.4 Parent Commissioner - Special Needs (Angela)

Resolution received last night. Request to reconsider the ratio process. Student ombudsman have made specific request to review by-law 9 as soon as possible for the safety of staff and students

6.5 Parent's Committee (Lisa / Nora)

next meeting June 4.

6.6 Treasurer's report (Lauren)

As of May 26, we have spent \$828.91 of our budget

We have to spend before June 30 - \$1171.09

Concerns - if Bill 40 / Law 40 decision for the english boards stands we have to change all of our logos as it will no longer be Lester B Pearson School Board .. it will be a service centre...

Print through the business box

magnets 2x3.5 -14pt

250 - \$103.00

500 - \$130.00

750 - \$178.00

Pens -"Bic clic"

300 - \$236.00

500 - \$372.00

750 - \$542.00

Notepads of 50 sheets, printed in colour on 120m offset.

250 -\$440.00

500 - \$800.00

Buy folders for parent conferences, or envelopes and stamps to send considering the current circumstances.

E-vote will be done for the spending of the budget.

6.7 Programs & Services Committee (Kathy)

Discussion of online services, and stats at the time for returning students. Discussions have changed since the last meeting.

6.8 Pearson Teachers Union PTU (Tracey or Christina)

Support has been available for the teachers and huge thank you to the parents that have sent thank yous for the work being done. Even when parents are frustrated, they have been nice. It has been a huge learning curve, the staff seems to have a huge learning curve for all the platforms. PCU wants to wish a huge thank you to Maurren for her retirement.

6.9 Pearson Association of School Administrators PASA (Laurence)

See the best of everyone from everybody in the challenging times.

6.10 Professionals PEP (Maureen)

Submitted the report from the SNAC meeting, and people are impressed at all that is done, and a great impact. New therapist, Melanie Forest, and supported by Laura. Replacement is being looked at for next year.

6.11 Independent Association of Support Staff (Rob)

Huge thank you to Maureen and will be missed. Still working with teachers and the board, there is a frustration of the one on one. Reassuring parents that they are doing the best that they can. School board has been amazing, and looking forward to when everything will be normal. Things change constantly. Support staff are all working a lot on the fly, and official training is going to be given. Fairly self explanatory.

Q: Quick question, heard a lot about training for staff, and hearing more for the support staff, will this continue?

A: Constantly reminded that there is a lot of support staff that also need training and open to support staff. The first emergency was to train the staff to learn zoom or other platforms, and most of the support staff have been connecting with the students via as many platforms as possible.

6.12 Communication Liaison Report (Jen/Sheila)

Since the February meeting, there have been 205 hits to the main page and 18 hits to the webcast page.

Parent integration aide support since changing schools:

I'm writing just to enquire about what are the rights of an autistic student to access an aide in the classroom? Is there any documentation you can send so that I may do some research?

We switched schools this January and the contrast between the help both schools provide is night and day, and I regret heavily changing schools. We are left with no help at all now, no permanent aide (not even at a 2 to 1 ratio) and I worry for my son if he doesn't get the help he needs for next year, considering there will be a substantial amount to catch up on from this year.

Any information would be really helpful.

SNAC Chair has followed up with the parent and provided a link to our

Chris Eustace 4 emails we were cc'd on - in the kit.

6.13 Social Media Subcommittee (Jen)

Please see report in the kit
Facebook Page, 261 likes, 267 followers

Delta Program of Place Cartier is hosting a virtual open house June

7.0 Correspondence

Special Olympics Quebec

With the current situation, Special Olympics Quebec has had to restructure our youth program and the services that we are offering. The regular program (sports activities/health clinics/unified sport), which usually takes place during school hours has transformed in order to continue providing these services to kids and teenagers living with an intellectual disability and/or special needs. It now consists of a series of bilingual videos on our YouTube page ([Olympiques Spéciaux Québec](#)) which include games, activities, yoga sessions, and basic motor skills exercises. Here you can also find workouts and training sessions which are appropriate for high school students as well as adults. This program and its content has been approved and is included on the Ministry of Education's website, www.ecoleouverte.ca.

Special Olympics Quebec is continually working to develop new resources and we are always open to receiving your ideas and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to ask for any specific activities or materials that will help you motivate your students to move and keep active!

I invite you to forward this link to your students, kids, members, and to your community.

8.0 Varia

none

9.0 Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Rob, seconded by Lisa

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9: 17 PM

Next Meeting:

To Be Confirmed (possibly June, possibly August prior to reopening of schools).