



of the
Lester B. Pearson School Board

Annual Report 2019-2020

Special Needs Advisory Committee Members 2019-2020:

Parent Members

Jennifer DiMarco
Angela Berryman
Sheila Moody
Kathy Robinson
Lauren Broad
Marwa Khattab
Susana Lazaro
Kiley Philp
Evelyne Hornblower
Nora Salvaggio
Lisa Mancini
Dyana Gampel
Michelle Wilson

Representative of the Director General

Stéphanie Stever (Director of Student Services)

PASA (School Administrators)

Lindsay Weisbloom Laurence Assouline

PTU (Pearson Teachers Union)

Tracy Beiszez Christina George

IASS (Independent Association of Support Staff)

Robert Gilmartin

Student Services Non Teaching Professionals (PEP)

Maureen Hunt

Council of Commissioners

Daniel Olivenstein

Community Representative (WIAIH)

Franca Kesic

Executive:

Chairperson	Jennifer DiMarco
Co-Vice Chair Elementary	Lisa Mancini
Co-Vice Chair High School	Sheila Moody
Parent Commissioner - Special Needs	Angela Berryman
Secretary	Evelyne Hornblower
Treasurer	Lauren Broad

External Committee Representatives:

Parents' Committee	Lisa Mancini, Nora Salvaggio (alternate)
Programs and Services	Kathy Robinson, Michelle Wilson (alternate)

SNAC Website and Emails	Jennifer DiMarco, Sheila Moody
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SNAC Facebook Page Subcommittee	Jennifer DiMarco, Dyana Gampel, Marwa Khattab, Susana Lazaro, Lisa Mancini, Sheila Moody, Kiley Philp
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SNAC Meeting Dates for 2019-2020:

AGA and selection of new parent members September 25, 2019 **

September 25, 2019

October 23, 2019

November 20, 2019

December 11, 2019

January 15, 2020

February 19, 2020

March 18 meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

April 22, 2020 *Virtual on Google Meet

May 27, 2020 *Virtual on Google Meet

August 23, 2020 *Virtual on Google Meet

The major goals of the committee this year were:

- Continue to support parents of students with I.E.P.'s or being introduced to I.E.P.'s.
- Update website regularly and respond to emails received
- Encourage schools to add a link on their school's website to the SNAC website
- Provide information about SNAC to schools to use during kindergarten orientation and high school open houses - volunteer to attend on behalf of SNAC
- Continue to increase awareness of SNAC within the LBPSB community; contributing to the parents' committee newsletters and involvement in various LBPSB committees
- Provide relevant professional development for parents: host a parent to parent workshop / information session in Fall 2019 and if possible Spring 2020
- Distributed posters to all schools on dealing with inclusive practices, entitled Fair vs Equal
- Create a SNAC Facebook Page to increase social media presence

Presentations to SNAC:

This year SNAC was fortunate enough to have several presentations made to them during their meetings. Those included:

- TranXitions Program at Lethbridge - Layton - MacKay (December 2019)
- Stéphanie Stever presented on educating students with special needs in Quebec (January 2020)
- France D'Aoust presented on LBPSB budget allocation with regard to students with special needs (February 2020)
- Victoria Stuhec OT, Jade Lawsane Psychoeducator and Monique Thirlwell presented on the Health and Safety Protocols and PPE used in our schools (August 2020)

SNAC Parent Information Presentation:

This year SNAC was pleased to host a Parent Information Evening on The I.E.P. Journey November 6, 2019. Six consultants in inclusive education presented. There were over 70 parents in attendance. Questions raised with responses can be found on SNAC's website. <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/webcasts/page.asp>

Consultation Responses:

Consultation responses are listed on the SNAC website, under the consultations tab. <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/Consultations/page.asp>

This year SNAC provided a consultation response for each of the following:

- Major School Change Consultation Response (November 2019)
- Budget Consultation (April 2020)
- By-Law 1 and 1E Day, Time and Place of Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee Meetings 2020-2021 (April 2020)
- 3 year plan of allocation and destination of immovables 2020-2023 (May 2020)
- By Law #9-A Complaint Examination Procedure (August 2020)
- Appropriate use of Digital Resources and Technology Policy (August 2020)
- Intercultural Policy (August 2020)

Letters

SNAC wrote several letters this year and even received a response from the Minister of Education. They can all be found under the letters page on the website:

http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/SNAC_Letters/page.asp

- SNAC Letter to the Minister of Education Jean Francois Roberge Re: Bill 40: An Act to amend mainly the Education Act with regard to school organization and governance (November 2019)
- SNAC Letter to the Minister of Education Jean-Francois Roberge Re: 20 minute recess implementation and possible alternatives (January 2020) - We received a response from the Minister which is also posted on our website
- SNAC Letters to IASS - Independent Association of Support Staff inviting them to add an alternate member to SNAC (January 2020)
- SNAC Letter to PEP - Pearson Education Professionals inviting them to add an alternate member to SNAC (January 2020)
- SNAC joint letter with the EMSB Special Needs Advisory Committee to Minister Roberge with our disappointment in not being consulted with or informed about the reopening of some of the special needs programs and summer learning camps. We requested that we be added to the press release email list (June 2020)

SNAC Survey

- SNAC asked its email list and Facebook Page and special needs parenting group members to comment on the Minister of Education's Reopening of Schools message from April 27, 2020. We have compiled the answers here: <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/341ReopeningofSchoolsResponsesEmailandFacebookFINAL.pdf>

SNAC Parent Member Mandates Extended One Year

A motion was approved unanimously to extend the mandate of all SNAC parent members by 1 year to allow for continuity of membership during the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency circumstances. As such, SNAC will not be hosting a selection of new members in September 2020. SNAC submitted the list of names to the parents committee in their June meeting and received approval.

The 13 SNAC parent mandates will be extended one year as follows:

These 5 members were in year 2 of a 2 year mandate so will extend to the 2020-2021 year:

Jennifer DiMarco	- mandate will be extended to 2020-2021 school year ending Sept 2021
Angela Berryman	- mandate will be extended to 2020-2021 school year ending Sept 2021
Sheila Moody	- mandate will be extended to 2020-2021 school year ending Sept 2021
Lisa Mancini	- mandate will be extended to 2020-2021 school year ending Sept 2021
Evelyne Hornblower	- mandate will be extended to 2020-2021 school year ending Sept 2021

These 8 members were in year 1 of a 2 year mandate so will extend to the 2021-2022 year:

Lauren Broad	- mandate will be extended to 2021-2022 school year ending Sept 2022
Kathy Robinson	- mandate will be extended to 2021-2022 school year ending Sept 2022
Michelle Wilson	- mandate will be extended to 2021-2022 school year ending Sept 2022
Nora Salvaggio	- mandate will be extended to 2021-2022 school year ending Sept 2022
Susana Lazaro	- mandate will be extended to 2021-2022 school year ending Sept 2022
Dyana Gampel	- mandate will be extended to 2021-2022 school year ending Sept 2022
Kiley Philp	- mandate will be extended to 2021-2022 school year ending Sept 2022
* Marwa Khattab	- mandate will be extended to 2021-2022 school year ending Sept 2022

***Please note** that due to a school board change Marwa Khattab resigned her position as SNAC parent representative at the final August 2020 meeting. The committee will discuss the internal rules of management and replacement of parent members at their meeting in September.

Recommendations for the 2020-2021 Committee:

1. Continue to advise the school board on the organization of educational services for students with special needs
2. Update website regularly and respond to emails received
3. Host a parent information session in the fall / spring - virtual if necessary
4. Continue to clarify and finalize the IEP liaison on governing board role
5. Discuss the suggestion of sharing information about SNAC with parents when IEPs are sent out in the fall
6. Continue to explore ideas on how to communicate more effectively with parents of students with special needs
7. Create and approve new SNAC member kit
8. Continue to provide input into the newsletters the Parents' Committee publishes with contact information
9. Update the Special Needs Handbook - was last updated in 2006

I would like to **thank** all members of the Special Needs Advisory Committee from 2019-2020 for their dedication, participation and hard work this year. Your time is valuable and giving up so much of it for our students and parents shows your commitment to our community. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jennifer DiMarco - Chairperson

LBPSB Special Needs Advisory Committee 2019-2020

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