



Website <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca>  
Email: [snac@lbpearson.ca](mailto:snac@lbpearson.ca)

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

### Minutes of the Virtual Meeting – March 24, 2021 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval

**In Attendance:** Lauren Broad, Alexandra Desbiens-Leighton, Jennifer DiMarco, Dyana Gampel, Christina George, Robert Gilmartin, Evelyne Hornblower, Franca Kesic, Susana Lazaro, Lisa Mancini, Sheila Moody, Danny Olivenstein, Kiley Philp, Kathy Robinson, Nora Salvaggio, Randi Spanier, Stéphanie Stever, Victoria Stuhec, Michelle Wilson

**Regrets:** Laurence Assouline, Randall Howarth, Monique Thirlwell

**No Reply:**

**Recording Secretary:** Evelyne Hornblower

**Observers:** 0 members of the public were in attendance

**Jennifer DiMarco** called the virtual meeting to order at 6:33 pm

**1.0 Confirmation of Quorum & Welcome of New Members:** Quorum was reached  
(quorum is considered 9 or half the voting members as per the internal rules)

**2.0 Approval of Agenda:**

MOTION to approve agenda by Christina, seconded by Lisa

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

**3.0 Minutes Approvals:**

**3.1 Corrections to the Minutes of February 17, 2021**

R2, change it to is, and remove highlight.

### **3.2 Approval of Minutes of February 17, 2021**

MOTION to approve by Christina, seconded by Kathy  
MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

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

No public

### **5.0 Business Arising**

#### **5.1 Ratify E-Vote: Letter to Council of Commissioners**

14 Approved

1 Abstained

0 objections

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

#### **5.2 VOTE: Budget Consultation - response due March 31 (Jen)**

Will also send an email with our complete responses as well as fill-in the online form.

Concern that the letter will not be read as they suggested an online form. Proposal that in the suggestions we state to look at the letter. Asked our commissioners to let them know there is a longer version and that the online form is very limiting.

Change to "Staff members including permanent and replacement staff" instead of full time and part time on page 2

MOTION to approve by Lisa , seconded by Michelle  
MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

#### **5.3 VOTE: I.E.P. Trifold Pamphlet Draft (Jen)**

Pamphlet presented for condensed version of I.E.P. kit. Digital version will be uploaded online. Change proposed for the: I.E.P.'s to be updated **with** every report card.

Suggestion that if they are to be online, the order should be changed to read in the correct order. Will upload the pamphlet with printing instructions and can also do a second version with it all in order.

Certain modifications:

- Modify spelling mistake from LPBSB to LBPSB.
- Modification regular meetings
- Change Modified I.E.P. section and add *the* in front of *whole*.
- Update the spacing of the titles so they are all centered
- check that the bullet points line up and are the same size on information to share about my school
- Modify title add : and ?
- Add lines for parents to fill in the information on the back page

With modifications

MOTION to approve by Susana, seconded by Christina.

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

#### **5.4 VOTE: Update SNAC Rules of Internal Management**

Last week SNAC received an excellent training session from Genevieve Dugre, small modifications were requested to internal rules of management.

1. Remove the confidential watermark
2. page 3 “However, SNAC may order” remove the word may and replace it with will
3. page 4 title Decisions - add the words and recommendations so it reads Decisions and Recommendations

MOTION to approve by Lisa, seconded by Christina.

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)**

First item, Mr. Legault stated all High School students will be full time at schools as of the 29th of March (regardless of red zone or not). Bubbles must still be maintained. 2 ped days are coming up on 29-30th of March. Workshops will be given, they are planned. A *sexting education presentation* will be given for “sexting” and creating intervention plans around this

topic. Pedagogical interventions will be given by various consultants. All grade 10 students will be given the origins and the implications on the use of the “n-word” to understand how inappropriate they are and this is a follow-up to a situation presented during a history class.

On the COVID front, the situation is improving, the number of cases is reducing as well as outbreaks. The number of positive students and staff are lowering in comparison to February and December. The British variant is on the rise however. In order to reduce the potential contagion of the variant, the classes must be isolated quickly for suspected variances. At the CIUSSS all cases are being assessed as though they are variants and the school will receive a call for all confirmed cases of variant cases. Around 25% of cases are the variants. They seem to be more contagious, but do not show more risks to individuals. Day 5 and 12 after positive cases there will be follow-up tests. More isolation is required. There are more schools closing down as preventative measures for isolation. If not enough teachers are available then the schools must make decisions to mitigate the potential propagation and lack of resources make it impossible to maintain operations in school. Online learning is being used in order to attempt maintaining daily operations as much as possible. New updates are coming every week, and the board is adapting as quickly as possible.

Q1: Have we had any cases within the class of multiple positives.

R1: Has happened but they can not confirm if it is class only transmission.

Q2: Question for the masks have been coming in. They are meant to be given 2 masks a day. Is there a certain protocol to abide by that is standardised? Meaning they remove the home mask at first period for a school procedural and again after lunch?

R2: No, school by school administration of the policies.

Q3: With High Schools opening up, will class reductions be done?

R3: Online academy is a different consideration, the schools are staffed to receive full classrooms. Schedules are organised to receive all students. It is now a question of logistics.

Q4: 2 ped days to be had, will they be used for preparations for the high schools?

R4: Short Ped Days are used, one for elementary and one for high schools.

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

There are 2 reports. Report cards have changed, item 5 of the report highlights 35/65% split in the grading, as there are 2 terms. Decided upon by the government. There was no advanced warning of the changes to the return to schools.

There is a ban from the school board for the use of the n-word. There is no ban on works containing the n-word (books or arts) however it is to ensure it will not be used.

Susana made a great comment and brought passionate words about the topic that did not go unnoticed.

The students' report was excellent and very detailed.

The letter SNAC wrote about the St John Fisher school time change was also brought up, and the board took the letter very seriously and went back to the drawing board. The issue was logistics. They are aware that the time frames for education best benefit elementary earlier and high school students later from a learning perspective. The transportation board is going to be making a complete assessment of all the schools to see what would be best practices. While in theory this may be true there are logistical issues. The St John Fisher School Governing boards chose the plan A (9:05 or 9:15 am start time) instead of plan B with a 8:40 - 8:50 am start time, as the overall time at school would have been much longer overall, and so they chose the timeframes that were shortest for the academic day. The council took all the information in.

Q1: Will they be looking at all the start times for the schools?

R1: They will be assessing them, but not necessarily changing them. It will be an overall assessment. The transportation department will have an overall analysis.

Q2: When will the assessment take place?

R2: Not until 2022 will they start the assessment.

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

For the n-word, this is the first step of many.

Would like to be a stand-on committee, this would have implications. There were conversations about transgender identity, and non inclusive language. Will look at ways to use more inclusive language in the forms. Next meeting April 19th. Will look at the inclusive language and safety online and google hangouts.

Q1/comment1: There are a lot more situations of high school bullying online and in google hangouts. There is a specific family looking at making a change right now, while recognising that the school is making some kind of teaching for sensitivity. Are families capable of making school changes in the middle of the year?

R1: New registrations are possible, the SB does accept new students and transfers. However, it will need to be managed based on space and availability. In this situation it should be looked at with professionals in the school board.

Q2 Whom should they get in contact with in the school board, there should be a contact in the resource team or psychologist?

R2 Try to contact the professionals, and they may be better able to guide the family. Given the profile would advise to speak with the resource team.

#### **6.5 Parent's Committee (Lisa / Dyana)**

There is no summary report available yet from the last meeting. Verbal report - Highlights include the masks in the buses. Parents objected to the masks being kept at home and worn in

the morning. Masks are still being used in gym, CDC does not recommend it. Currently because of bubbles they must be keeping them.

The parents committee will be doing a newsletter and will be giving SNAC a space in the info report. Sarah has reached out to SNAC and Jen, Lisa and Dyana have submitted info to share in the newsletter. It should be out in April. SNAC is very pleased to be included in the newsletter.

## **6.6 Treasurer's report (Lauren)**

Treasurer's report in kit. \$2000 to spend this year.

We have spent overall 458.64\$

There is a remaining balance of 1 541.36\$

**\*\*VOTE for Sarah Ward 2 day conference \$25/person (17th and 18th of April 2021)**

Vote for up to 5 people to attend the 17-18th Sarah Ward Conference

Members are to email SNAC Chair if you are interested in attending.

MOTION to approve by Christina, seconded by Lauren.

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

**\*\*VOTE for 50 \$ egift card thank you for Geneviève Dugre to the SAQ.**

MOTION to approve by Lauren, seconded by Evelyne.

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

**\*\*VOTE to spend \$50 to boost facebook post on new IEP Pamphlet**

MOTION to approve by Susana, seconded by Evelyne.

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

## **6.7 Equity and Inclusion Task Force (Lisa)**

There are a lot of points being brought up. Closer look at making calendars more inclusive of all religions. One of the challenges is to look at seasonal holidays based on weather and not actual dates for aboriginal communities. Report is getting written.

## **6.8 Programs & Services Committee (Kathy / Dyana)**

No meeting was held.

No report.

## **6.9 Pearson Teachers Union PTU ( Christina)**

Two upcoming ped days. On March 31st it will have been a year without a written union agreement. Teachers are very tired, it is exhausting with all the current situations. Teachers are extremely tired and adjusting to the ever changing impacts.

Q1: Is there anything parents can do to help teachers?

R1: Even if just through social media, promote and thank teachers. Teachers are constantly on edge as they simply do not know if they will be a closed bubble. The stress is hard to deal and adjust with. With the variant everyone is even more on edge with everything that is coming up. Many individuals are letting go of a lot of the restrictions. It is a stress for everyone to have to deal with. When the premier made the announcements people had no forewarning for the decisions to come. They are making these decisions and do not realise the stresses that are being made. More services are needed for mental health services. Everyone feels like they don't have the tools. Colleagues are exhausted.

R2: How to help, write to your MNA and CC to Roberge, Legault and all governing bodies, ensure to keep writing to the government. The MNAs and all individuals start writing and parents send letters to everyone in order to attempt to make a difference.

Clarification for the 14 minutes in the lounge with the teachers, if you are there 15 minutes or more, then everyone in the lounge of the bubble has to go home.

As an idea creating open letters to sensitise the public as something to bring up in the future.

## **6.10 Pearson Association of School Administrators PASA ( Alexandra)**

PASA meeting was held this afternoon. Secondary school administrators will also be looking at the changes. The two ped days will be very helpful for the return to class. Specific for special needs there will be planning in prioritising teachers' school time. For students in grade 6, resource teams will be sharing information for the incoming students in the high schools.

Q1: What about daycare to the new K4?

R1: the same thing is happening but in an alternative way.

Q2: Are there special considerations for the K children coming in considering they have been in very different environments for their current settings. Are teachers concerned about the speech of the children who haven't had the opportunity to look at faces due to mask wearing?

R2: These are conversations being had, but it is not a certainty if there will be additional budgets for additional resources. We are planning social emotional learning for next year and receptive and expressive language and facial expressions and realizing the visuals we have are not the current reality.

#### **6.11 Professionals PEP (Victoria / Monique / Randal)**

Staff are tired because they are trying to still maintain as many of the activities and attempt to keep as much normalcy as possible.

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

All staff are having a hard time to support everyone as much as possible. There are workshops for non permanent staff, the option is supposed to be there for all. Everyone is concerned with the variants, and vigilance is the key. If you are not feeling well, stay home and get tested. High School is extended to June 23 and support staff is included in the extension.

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

Since the February meeting, there have been 301 hits to the main page and 38 hits to the webcast page.

A lot of emails from families with high needs situations that have come up recently.

Thanks to Sheila who responded to a parent who was asking about the inter board agreement for the MacKay Centre School.

#### **6.14 Social Media Subcommittee (Susana)**

More and more people are seeing our posts. Posts have reached 10500 people. Some numbers have decreased (no boostings recently) and the boosting has a direct impact on the people we reach.

Comment is that the amount of people that are viewing each month is not as important as the potential of people that it can reach.

Many schools have started following the fb pages, and there are many thank you messages from the public. The feedback has been wonderful.

#### **6.15 WIAIH (Franca Kesic)**

Rolling with the times, the online recreation programs will be ending at the end of the week, and another program will start mid april. Day camps will be offered, and planning is ongoing to see

what the offerings will be. Parent support groups are ongoing the 1st Friday morning of each month at 9:30am and the 2nd Tuesday evening of each month at 7pm. They are currently held online. Please contact Franca to reserve your spot [assistance@wiah.qc.ca](mailto:assistance@wiah.qc.ca) .

## **7.0 Correspondence**

Please ensure to see the following:

Amy Laurent Conference <https://coeasd.lbpsb.qc.ca/Portals/asd/Documents/2021-04-26-Amy-Laurent.pdf>

Caden's Lighthouse <http://www.cadenslighthouse.com/>

MCLD 2 Day Weekend Conference April 17 & 18 Sarah Ward <https://ldmontreal.ca/conference/>

WOTP Parent Info Session April 8 on Zoom

<https://www.facebook.com/SpecialNeedsAdvisoryCommittee/photos/a.122763549289402/271737637725325/>

## **8.0 Varia**

SNAC will receive a special presentation next month from Matthew Kennedy and Mylene Carin from the adult sector on the new Transition website.

Q1: Can this be open to more than SNAC?

R1: Yes , the tool they are developing is for parents so yes we can offer it to more parents so long as they are parent members of LBPSB. Once we have the title info we can begin to advertise it to our mailing list.

## **9.0 Questions from the Public**

No public present.

## **10.0 Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Rob, seconded by Susana

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10PM

### **Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday April 21 2021 at 6:30pm on Google Meet**