



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

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting – April 21, 2021 Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board 1925 Brookdale, Dorval

In Attendance: Laurence Assouline, Lauren Broad, Jennifer DiMarco, Dyana Gampel, Christina George, Robert Gilmartin, Evelyne Hornblower, Randall Howarth, Franca Kesic, Susana Lazaro, Lisa Mancini, Sheila Moody, Danny Olivenstein, Kiley Philp, Kathy Robinson, Nora Salvaggio, Randi Spanier, Stéphanie Stever, Victoria Stuhec, Monique Thirlwell, Michelle Wilson

Regrets: Alexandra Desbiens-Leighton

No Reply:

Recording Secretary: Evelyne Hornblower

Observers: 3 members of the public were in attendance

Jennifer DiMarco called the virtual meeting to order at 6:32 pm

1.0 Special Presentation: Transitions Website - A website for individuals with special needs and their families as they explore resources available across our community

Presented by:

Mylaine Cardin Pedagogical Consultant for Healthy, Safe and Caring Schools (LBPSB)
Matthew Kennedy Consultant for Inclusive Education and Social Participation (LBPCE)
Ariane Phillie Conseillère en intégration with Action Main D'Oeuvre
Janice Jarvis Head of Services for Work and Community Integration for DI-TSA-DP (CIUSSS-ODIM / CROM)

The Transitions Website has been developed collaboratively with our partners from the WILT (West Island Local Table) to help individuals and families navigate transitions from pre-k to the education system, and from education to employment and life as an adult. During the presentation, we will unveil the latest version of the website, and browse through it to offer you the opportunity to explore what information and resources you can find in it.

Presentation link: bit.ly/april21snac

Context and rationale

- New project for the West Island Local Table (WILT) for Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Salon DI-TSA 2020 was planned for Spring 2020 prior to COVID. There was a desire to create a companion website to the Salon
- A need for a single hub for information for students with ID/ASD and their families to navigate the transitions throughout one's life.
- WILT agreed to the development of the site and LBPSB agreed to host it on Google sites

Website Structure and Navigation

There are 3 ways to navigate the site:

1. **Services by age** (can always be navigated at the top of each page)
2. **Services by category**
 - a. Diagnosis and early intervention
 - b. individual support and services
 - c. respite, residential, independent living
 - d. school (child and adult)
 - e. employment and day program
 - f. recreation and leisure
3. **Services by municipalities** in the territory we serve from the West Island to Ontario Border
 - a. Baie D'urfe
 - b. Beaconsfield
 - c. Dollard-des-Ormeaux
 - d. Dorval
 - e. Ile Bizard/St. Genevieve
 - f. Hudson / St. Lazare / St Telesphore
 - g. Kirkland
 - h. Lachine
 - i. Lasalle
 - j. Pierrefonds-Roxboro

- k. Pointe Claire
- l. Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue
- m. Senneville
- n. Vaudreuil-Soulanges
- o. Verdun

This current website is the second draft and the committee is currently working on the third version of the site for official launch in May. It is possible to go and view the website and bring comments in the following weeks.

Mylaine presented on the actual website. Currently it is all in English however once launched they will begin to work on the French translation. The way the pages are set are all similar regardless of the ages categories. Upon clicking on the links different services will be brought up and it will be a matter of clicking different areas in line with the age groups served. Registration for high schools is available as well as admission information. Other information found are websites for high school websites. Information for children with special needs can be found within the site. Different youth pathways are outlined for potential paths in case there are challenges presented within the standard schooling curriculum. The information is always displayed to show who, which way, and what is offered as well as important contact information to contact resources. All pathways present this information.

Lastly there are advanced programs shown for the competencies available for different pathways including TEVA (Transition from school to adult life) stands for (Transition de l'école à la vie adulte). On this TEVA page details are given as to how to make this transition. There are a lot of parent resources for the transitions required with the links about what to think about and what to consider for the transition towards adult living (professional and medical considerations). Will the specialists follow the child past 18 yr olds as well as important links. There are tools available in order to identify child's skills and likes as well as help discern their roadmaps for life as adults.

Ariane continued to present the pages for adults. There are pages for students transitioning their end of High Schools or transition towards life programs. The different listings from LBPSB and MBCSS specialised programs. The details of the programs will all be identified for easy reference in the West Island parents. Multiple pages are shown in order to find vocational educational programs. There are ways to look at employment opportunities. There are a few students that may not be able to continue studying in the school board. There are partnerships to develop social and professional skills.

Different West Island organisations that can provide assistance are to be listed in this section as well as services outside of the areas that still offer services.

The Services by municipalities are an extensive repertoire of available resources offered in the different municipalities local to the given areas and are all linked to the different municipalities. They include schools and associations. The CIUSSS attached to the municipalities. All municipalities are set the same way. The little dots refer to the different categories of information given.

Comments and Questions

Comment1: Thought this was amazing and eye opening for students, teachers.

Comment 2: This is beyond what was expected

Comment 3: Thanks for coming together and thanks for the time and effort in getting this done.

Comment 4: Please consider adding the SNAC website link to the site

Q1: Looking at this information, the question is how will this be diffused? What is the plan for diffusion of the information?.

R1: Social Media will be launched, it will be on LBPSB facebook and page. Any social media platforms will be used as well as email lists.

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

3.0 Approval of Agenda:

Teacher strike to add in section 6.5

MOTION to approve agenda by Lisa, seconded by Christina
MOTION carried by unanimous vote

4.0 Minutes Approvals:

4.1 Corrections to the Minutes of March 24, 2021

none

4.2 Approval of Minutes of March 24, 2021

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

5.0 Questions from the public

Q1: Looking for a school for a 5 year old - trying to understand the difference between Yaldei, Summit and LBPSB Schools?

R1: Chair will send the link to the section on the LBPSB website where you can see what school you are zoned for in our territory. LBPSB is a fully inclusive school board, which means that the children are in the class settings. If in the settings are also eligible for neighborhood schools within regular classrooms with planning depending on their needs. The choice of the school will

be done with the school and their current needs. If you are looking for one to one assistance at all times, or a school dedicated only to students with special needs, this will not be what is offered at LBPSB. .

6.0 Business Arising

6.1 Upcoming Meetings

May meeting cancelled as it is on the John Abbott information night which affects a few of the SNAC parent members. We will move the final meeting up to June 2nd.

6.2 VOTE: End of Year Dinner June 2

This month we MUST vote on the June 2 SNAC year end dinner.

We will vote from 2 restaurants:

Les 3 Soeurs on St. Jean near Salaberry

<http://www.3soeurs.ca/menu.html>

or

Sorella on St. Charles at Hymus

<https://www.boutiquesorella.com/>

Both have options for everyone's dietary restrictions.

11 parents + 10 staff (if all take part) = 21 people

21 x \$35 = \$735

21 x \$40 = \$840

MOTION to approve \$40 gift cards purchases to both Sorella and 3 Soeurs for each SNAC Member for the June year end meeting. First by Christina, seconded by Susana
MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

We won't use this year's budget to print posters for next year's AGA as we are unaware if parents will be inside schools in September . If restrictions are lifted, next year's SNAC budget can be used - we can also simply send out the information electronically.

6.3 EPCA Newsletter

<https://epcaquebec.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/0031-EPCA-NEWSLETTER-VOL-3.pdf>

SNAC Chair was interviewed for the most recent EPCA newsletter - take a look at how wonderfully SNAC was represented! Quickguide was on the site and links were integrated in the EPCA newsletter. Will be featured on the SNAC Facebook Page

6.4 Autism Awareness vs Autism Acceptance (Lisa)

SNAC had a wonderful discussion about the month of April which has been traditionally looked at as Autism Awareness month where the puzzle piece has been the main unofficial symbol for Autism - meaning that there is a missing piece in people with Autism / Autistics. There is a large movement by people with Autism / Autistic individuals and their families to move from April being considered an Autism Awareness month to Autism Acceptance month. Language needs to be updated to be more inclusive and new logos need to be used respecting them as a whole person, not a person with parts incomplete or missing. The Autistic community is asking that they be directly involved in the decisions for websites, policies etc that represent them -please seek their input. Several parents wrote into SNAC in April hoping that LBPSB , being the Centre of Excellence for Autism Spectrum Disorders in the province of Quebec, would be a leader in this movement. The School Board is aware and discussions have begun to make changes to the logo and look into updating the language.

Questions

Q1: Is the concern the language or the use of the language?

R1: The Autism / Autistic community is having a debate over the use of the language and or the definition of their self-identity. Some speak very strongly stating that they are on the spectrum and others equally as strong stating that they are autistic. They want their voices to be at the table when decisions are being made about their lives - such as websites or policies and their positions as individuals. This is a widespread discussion at the moment around the world. Some are saying if you are an individual with epilepsy, it is a medical condition to be treated or fixed, If you are a person with cancer it is a condition to be fixed. They are saying that they are Autistic and are identifying themselves as a culture similar to the deaf. The self advocacy groups are saying I don't have something that should be fixed or cured - there isn't anything wrong with me. They are saying - you are not autistic, you can't speak for us. It is a deep divide between autistic adults and caregivers for wanting to change the language.

Q2: Is it possible to have a student representative have a seat on the SNAC committee?

R2: Complex question, as there would be many people and disabilities to represent including ages (elementary and high school, adult sector etc.) SNAC Chair to reach out to Genevieve to see what is possible. There are student commissioners that sit on the council of commissioners. Perhaps SNAC could extend such an invitation somehow if there is a student on an I.E.P. who would like to attend.

6.5 Teacher Strike Support

There was confusion in the items that should be done for the community to support the teachers during the last strike day. For example, on social media it was mentioned that in order to support the teachers parents should not have their children log on for that day. Parents were confused and scrambled to try and do the right thing but of course nothing official could be written up. SNAC parents wanted to post something to our facebook page and did have something but again, it isn't within our mandate so did not.

Q1 Another strike date is set for next week - hat are the types of comments or support that can be given?

R1 Teachers will not advocate as to how to best support. Teachers are not allowed to post on their personal social media their message.

Q2: Is the School Board allowed to be in support of the teachers' strike in the afternoon after school.

R2: The school board must ensure to provide a safe environment and respect the rights to strike. People are allowed to support the teachers on their personal social media.

To promote parents not going to online schooling during strike action is not something that SNAC should support.

Definitely agree that supporting certain actions are not a part of our roles. However what it comes down to is to advocate for the best position for the children. Have spent a lot of time thinking about how to best support the teachers in advocating for our children. There are many professionals looking at negotiating all their collective agreements.

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>

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

7.2 Administration (Stéphanie)

Highlight the fact that the vaccination campaign is open to all associated professionals. Frontline workers now all have the opportunity to get vaccinated. This was appreciated. Second strike on April 27th as well as a strike on the 29th of April. Services will be presented to the community. Great presentation on the 27th of April on resilience and children. All available on the website.

LBPSB has updated their website, the SNAC community is in the community tab. The parenting in the workshops series are very well done, and are all pre-recorded for anyone to view.

7.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny)

At the end of April the changes for the staff may be happening. In March they passed the policy on the ban of the N-word. Huge deficit that all boards are incurring. Including the daycare staff. All the boards are currently trying to get reimbursed by the CAC. The SNAC presentation by Stéphanie was amazing. There is also the 450 000\$ loss of revenue from rentals that has not been approved. 7million \$ works will be done by next december 2021 to the Lindsay place to St-Thomas major school change.

7.4 Parent Commissioner - Special Needs (Susana)

The LBPSB website has highlighted the complaints procedure under the parents and community tab. It is now its own individual page- the 3rd tab down in parents and community. Here is the direct link. <http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/parents-and-community/complaints-procedure>

7.5 Parent's Committee (Lisa / Dyana)

MSR in kit

Budget consultation was voted upon but there was no meeting held.

Newsletter going out soon, they were very impressed with SNAC. When the SNAC Chair received the request to participate in the newsletter Sara Campeau gave a wonderful thank you for SNAC content and prompt submission. Look for it in the coming weeks.

7.6 Treasurer's report (Lauren)

Motion to approve the purchase of \$40 gift cards for each SNAC member to be received for the June 2nd final meeting.

MOTION to approve by Cristina, seconded by Susana
MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

VOTE: Print the trifold pamphlet using the LBPSB Printing (Christina is volunteering to get these folded) quote: Here is the quote as requested:

For one in color on regular paper 20lb = .172
Black and white in regular paper 20lb = .040
For 32 lb. paper a bit thicker = .192

Motion to spend \$200 on the printing of the I.E.P. SNAC pamphlet

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

Motion to spend \$136 on the end of services present

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

7.7 Equity and Inclusion Task Force (Lisa)

Are in the final stages talking about the Commissioners use of the N-word, it is not supported by the task force and Dr. Lashley. We are as a Subcommittee finalising the recommendations: top 4 are more resources for teachers, self representation and advocacy and inclusive policy and trickle down with consistency across the board. To have accountability to the already established regulations by LBPSB.

7.8 Programs & Services Committee (Kathy / Dyana)

Presentation on the Online Academy, 725 students on the online academy.
(394 elementary/331 students)
2-4 admins, 2 support, 70 teachers 25 integration aides

7.9 Pearson Teachers Union PTU (Christina)

Strike on the 14th, Parents were very supportive, many parents supported. Classes resumed by 9:45 am. Through a fb page the teachers found that it was going to be online. Next strike date is next Tuesday. Teachers are hoping that things will keep moving forward.

7.10 Pearson Association of School Administrators PASA (Laurence)

Planning meetings are currently taking place for next year. 2 workshops on biases (conscious or not) will be ongoing workshops for admin and staff.

7.11 Professionals PEP (Victoria / Monique / Randal)

Living in 2 worlds at the moment, continuing in the assessments for this year and planning for next year. The feeling of hope as now staff is allowed to get vaccinated and the buzz in the buildings is all hope. Looking forward to the Amy Laurent Conference on Monday.

7.12 Independent Association of Support Staff (Rob)

Last week during the teacher strike, prior to the start of the school day some of the support staff walked with the teachers in support.

7.13 Communication Liaison Report (Jen / Sheila)

Multiple emails have been sent.

7.14 Social Media Subcommittee (Susana)

Report is in the kit.

Boosting the posts works, it reaches people. If you want to get a message across, boosting is very effective. Next boosting will be for the new Transitions website once it is available

7.15 WIAIH (Franca Kesic)

Spring programs have started (70 participants are participating). People are very excited to meet virtually. Summer day camp registration starting. Are currently looking for staff, for full time work this summer. Can be referred to Franca. Will begin offering parents/social skills groups based on the book on the Science of making friends. This week we are recognizing volunteers (national volunteer week). The peers group will be free and to offer the peers program the people must be willing to participate and in the same age category.

8.0 Correspondence

Boccia Canada - Cerebral Palsy Sports Association - a sport that caters only to individuals with physical disabilities. A letter to principals hoping to deliver a zoom presentation on teaching on all needs for physical disabilities. Interesting presentation that she would like to bring forth to schools.

ADHD and various presentations are being offered by the West Island Neuropsychology and counselling centre. Kiley shared that they are also one of the few centres that offers DBT to adolescents in Montreal.

9.0 Varia

N/A

10.0 Questions from the Public

No question at the moment, but a comment about the transitions website and boosting on the website once it is live.

11.0 Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Rob, seconded by Christina

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at **9:19 PM**

Next Meeting:

Wednesday June 2 2021 at 6:30pm on Google Meet