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Special Needs Advisory Committee

Lester B. Pearson School Board

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting – June 2, 2021

Held at Lester B. Pearson School Board

1925 Brookdale, Dorval

In Attendance: Laurence Assouline, Lauren Broad, Alexandra Desbiens-Leighton, 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, Randi Spanier, Stéphanie Stever, Victoria Stuhec, Michelle Wilson

Regrets: Nora Salvaggio, Monique Thirlwell

No Reply:

Recording Secretary: Lisa Mancini, Evelyne Hornblower

Observers: 0 members of the public were in attendance

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

1.0 Confirmation of Quorum: Quorum was reached

(quorum is considered 9 or half the voting members as per the internal rules)

2.0 Approval of Agenda:

Add 5.8 adaptations and accommodations in the adult sector (Kiley)

MOTION to approve agenda by Kathy, seconded by Susana

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

3.0 Minutes Approvals:

3.1 Corrections to the Minutes of April 21, 2021

Under 7.12 - correct to say

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.

3.2 Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2021

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

4.0 Questions from the public

There is no public in attendance

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 Update: SNAC I.E.P. Pamphlet and Letter Delivery to Schools

Jen has created personalized letters to each school to go with the I.E.P. Pamphlets.

They were already folded by the machine

Discussion to be sent out now in June or in September to avoid getting lost in the end of year clean ups.

St. Patricks's to receive a handful of pamphlets right away - as they requested them

Will be sent out in September to schools so that they do not get lost in the summer clean up, the electronic copies are available. Any school that wants it immediately can have it if requested.

5.2 VOTE: Consultation 3 year plan of allocation and destination of immovables 2021-2024 (due June 11)

Jennifer asked Danny and Susana to provide feedback to council that the background information document was very helpful and to please consider keeping that in future years.

Document spoke of capacity as well as current enrollment for the current year and the next two years. A question is where is the extra classroom to hold these students? Jen cited Dorset as an example and asked where are extra students - in current classrooms or did they have to use the library as a classroom or a planning room as a library for example?

We discussed the topics of why WOTP programs were not included in the document, it was explained by Stephanie that the REACH program is a point of service which is attached to a school that is different from the housed school. A WOTP is a program that is attached to the home school and is part of the school organization and part of the whole student population. REACH is currently held in Christmas Park and Lasalle Jr but they are not part of the student population of these two schools. Dyana shared that her son is a part of the REACH program housed in the Lasalle Junior but the emails she receives are from her home school NOT Lasalle Jr where the classes are taking place.

Stephanie also explained that the overflow of a school like Dorset cannot be simply moved to a nearby school because the schools have different programs (Ex: Francais plus vs Bilingual).

Recommend to council to put on the grid what the programs are in each school (ex Francais Plus. Bilingual)

Jennifer read through the response and it will address the CFER program. Genesis program to add to the list of programs and where they are housed.

Programs should be promoted in order for individuals to understand all of the potential programs that are available.

As our board is an inclusive board, the intent is to keep children in their communities as much as possible. There are points of services but the intent is to include the children as part of the community.

People must remember that the schools are capable of governing their own programs based on the needs of the schools.

Comment: BHS seems to have a lot of room, all options should be looked at as viable options.

VOTE on the letter editing the end of paragraph 1 with: some examples include, but are not limited to, the Ed-Venture Program, REACH program, various Work Oriented Training Path (WOTP) Programs including in-School Alternative programs such as Visions program at PCHS, and Genesis at Lindsay Place and Embarkations etc...

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

5.3 VOTE: Consultation By-law 1 and 1E (2021) – Day, Time, and Place of Council of Commissioners and Executive Committee Meetings 2021-2022 (due June 25)

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

5.4 SNAC Parent Member Terms - 13 parent member spots total - 7 members needed to vote in at AGA

We need 7 new parent members or returning parent members to the committee
AGA can be next year in October and November based on the actual dates required.

5.5 SNAC AGA for September - possible dates Sept 22 or 29 - Virtual if needed

For the time being we will keep the AGA for September 29 2021 is our tentative planning.

Will be via zoom with secret poll on September 29 - Stephanie to set up the invite
First meeting to follow after - to vote in executive, choose meeting dates approve June minutes

5.6 Ratify Evote - end of year gift

11 approvals

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

5.7 Western Quebec School Board SEAC to create I.E.P. Resource Kit

They are giving credit to SNAC for the IEP resource kits that they are making

5.8 Adaptations and accommodations in the adult sector (Kiley)

Q: Are there any adaptations and accommodations in the vocational centres / adult sector?

Stephanie responded: In the vocational sector each program has their own set of rules in terms of possible flexibility or accommodations and adaptations and anyone who has questions should connect with the guidance counsellor.

We had some programs where students that had assistive technology were not able to use them in certain circumstances given the constraints of the official MEQ exam. It is really program by program to see what adaptations and accommodations are available. In AVE (adult vocational education) there is the same possibilities that we are offering within the youth sector. They have adapted and evolved. They are trying to incorporate similar things from the youth sector to the adult sector. It isn't called an I.E.P. however.

Q: Kiley mentioned that in some of the programs the pace is too fast for some students based on their disability. Asked if a program is an 18 month program and a student requires it to be done at a slower pace, could it be possible to slow things down? Example in past years a student at Riverdale was able to do cycle 1 in 3 years instead of 2. Is there something similar?

Q: Kiley asked about training for teachers in the adult sector - professional development

We are trying to join forces and offer our workshops to ALL teaching staff . It is not as systematic as we don't always have common ped days. A lot of their PD is focused on the actual trade.

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>

Transition website was online at noon today June 2nd!

6.2 Administration (Stéphanie)

Full Meeting report in the kit

The NEW Transitions Website aims to guide individuals with special needs and their families as they explore resources available across our community especially when it comes to moments of transition in a person's life. This website is being officially launched today, June 2nd.

Here is the link, please enjoy and share with your schools and communities: bit.ly/transitionsmtl

Today, the MEQ presented their orientations of the 2021-2022 back-to-school plan which were established based on the current health situation and the progress of the vaccination rollout among the general population. They assume that, when school starts again, 75% of the population aged 12 and up will have been vaccinated, with the majority of 12- to 17-year-olds having received two doses.

School organization to focus on 3 areas:

1. Return to school under conditions that are as normal as possible for students and staff
2. Maintain health measures and remain vigilant about air quality
3. Plan contingency measures for possible implementation depending on how the epidemiological situation evolves, to be revised in August

The provincial vaccination campaign for 12–17-year-olds is rolling out across the province.

Youth in this age group are currently eligible for vaccination. Our partners in the health sector are reporting that vaccination rates are high. The school portion of this campaign was run by the Centre de santé et de services sociaux (CSSS) in each region. Their approaches differ depending upon local circumstances. We are serviced by three different CSSS:

- CSSS sud-ouest serves Verdun (Beurling, Verdun Elementary, Riverview)
- CSSS de l'ouest-de-l'île serves communities from Lasalle to the western end of the island
- CSSSMO serves our off-island schools

Please click on the link below to find information on vaccinations for your specific school and/or region. <https://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/COVID>

Today the MEQ presented the orientation for back to schools. The goal is to go back to school without bubbles and restrictions. Maintaining cleaning and hand sanitizing but not masks. Contingency plans will be done. All contingent on vaccination percentages (75% of the populations mentioned in media). All information is available online today.

Province turns to orange. Grades 9-10-11 can progressively go to full time.

Special thank you to the various members of the LBPSB as well as thank you to Jen as a member, parent and Chair to SNAC.

Q: Upcoming Strike day . Parents were just informed. Can you tell us a bit more?

A: Professionals have advised that they are striking from midnight to noon June 9. Sme schedule that was presented the other 2 strike days. This is strike day #3, they have a potential for 5 strike days total. So there will be no classes or daycares offered during those days, but regular activities can be held for the Adult sector can be in for the afternoon.

Q: The government announced the merging of classes in the high schools. When will parents know more?

A: MEQ term - geometrie variable will be used for the return to schools in the final 3 weeks. Meaning, the reentry plan will vary depending on the school, the context, the organization (divided group a and b, vs 1 grade 1 day another grade another day) it will be a progressive reentry of students in a full time manner and it will not be done in the same way in all schools.

Q Since the government announced it will begin next week, when will parents hear what the plan is for their high school?

A: A meeting of all high school principals was held this afternoon so parents should hear more in the coming days.

6.3 Council of Commissioners (Danny)

Staffing changes were listed.

Summer school online will be given.

No standardised exams for summer.

Air purifiers (CAQ government prevented all the implementation in the service centers, but SB placed them in. CAQ asked to certify the air purifiers to ensure that they were safe. They are very safe and are finding that they work really well.) In general they were very effective in the battle versus the CSS).

Transportation committee, St John Fisher, made a request for the school bus system analysis. Studies show that the early school start is better for younger children. Early and late start times will have to be looked at. Multiple permutations and scenarios will be looked at.

Thanks to the whole committee from Danny. Large thanks to Susana who's determination is outstanding. Stephanie is a wealth of knowledge. Special thanks to Jen for her determination, empathy, energy and dedication.

6.4 Parent Commissioner - Special Needs (Susana)

Safe and caring schools - no more google hangouts

1st Goal - IEP Pamphlet

2nd Goal - Complaint procedures was easily done

3rd Goal - Google Hangouts will no longer be on the given tools. Replaced on Google meets, teachers will decide who has access and how the information will be transferred.

Goal for next year is that the recommendations for the task force will be going forth.

6.5 Parent's Committee (Lisa / Dyana)

Newsletter has been released. Meeting set for tomorrow. Dyana will go.

Newsletter was sent out, however they did not capitalise the outreach as they could have sent it through the mass parent network (4 send outs per year). SNAC believes it is not too late to send this out.

Presentation on white privilege, was very important. Was relevant as to whether SNAC should be involved. PC is having a debate about it. Great presentation on bias on culture, it is important to have the conversations

6.6 Treasurer's report (Lauren)

Spent \$1 822.12 to date.

No more commitments are there. There is \$177.88 to spend.

FB boost is something that could be done (extremely useful tool). The issue is that it does not get billed until the end of month. Can a prepaid Visa card be used to get boosts? Unfortunately no

Vote to spend the remaining funds for personalized beverage containers for this year's SNAC committee to be handed out at the AGA to our members as a thank you.

MOTION to approve by Lisa, seconded by Susana

MOTION carried by unanimous vote.

6.7 Equity and Inclusion Task Force (Lisa)

Draft version of the report is in the kit for a response to the task force and equity diversity and inclusion.

<https://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/Modules/FileManagement/files/Root/Council/Task%20Force/Reports/TASK-Force-Report-Draft.pdf>

Recommendations on the 28th will be given and a letter should be sent.

6.8 Programs & Services Committee (Kathy / Dyana)

No report, talked about summer school online. Changed the name Tell them from me to Our School.

6.9 Pearson Teachers Union PTU (Christina)

Aides meeting for Aide allocations for the following year. I.E.P.'s will be sent out at the end of June.

Where are we with electronic I.E.P. for the fall?

Still working on this. 2 terms next year for sure. The percentages will be 40/60.

6.10 Pearson Association of School Administrators PASA (Alexandra)

This year we have all had to pivot many times. The administrators are encouraged by the current discussions however all administrators are aware that pivoting may arise next year. Coordinating between the elementary and high schools as well as online and in person presence has been very challenging. Most in school administrators are in this world at this time.

6.11 Professionals PEP (Victoria / Monique / Randal)

Been a great challenging year, excited to see the next year.

6.12 Independent Association of Support Staff (Rob)

Everyone is exhausted, has been a challenging year. Looking for a day to come to school without a mask. Special thanks to Jen and Kathy very best in retirement. As for Rob for next year, will have to see for next year. It is a fortunate role to have.

6.13 Communication Liaison Report (Jen / Sheila)

emails about accommodations per school regarding students with dyslexia and dysorthographia
emails regarding accommodations for a student with a speech delay - what accommodations
can be put on their IEP - example can subjects other than french be translated due to speech
delay (example sciences humaines). does that fall under accommodations or modification.

6.14 Social Media Subcommittee (Susana)

Parents are asking about modifications for specific subjects and language.

If a subject is identified in one language. Can have modifications for language, and can have the
tests in english instead of french. These can be done. School can guide to modify on subjects
for grades

Boosting works, no negative comments. This is a huge success.

6.15 WIAIH (Franca Kesic)

Registration is taking place. Camp is going to take place. Parents are excited about the news.
3 different camps will take place. Will offer online camps and classes. A lot of people are
anxious about reintegration into society. Are continuing with online parent groups.

AGM is coming up as a member or community rep June 16th at 7 pm via zoom. Every year
there is something new coming up at the meetings. Greatly appreciate being a part of this
committee. Thanks to Jen again.

7.0 Correspondence

Adapted Baseball for Off Island - ages 5 - 18.
Transitions Website has been launched officially as of June 2nd

8.0 Varia

No

9.0 Questions from the Public

No public

10.0 Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn the meeting by Rob, seconded by Kathy

MOTION carried by unanimous vote

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm

Next Meeting will be our AGA:

Wednesday September 29 2021 at 6:30 pm Depending on COVID restrictions we may hold it in person or virtually.