



Special Needs Advisory Committee
Lester B. Pearson School Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – NOVEMBER 28TH, 2012

Held at the Lester B. Pearson School Board, 1925 Brookdale, Dorval Room 219/221

In Attendance: Sandra Buckingham, Marie-Eve Claude, Jennifer DiMarco (From 7:35), Hirut Eyob, Laurie Fox, Jane Fullerton-Kelly, Christopher Fuzessy, Linton Garner, Daniel Olivenstein, Kerry-Ann Payette, Kiley Philp (From 7:12), Allison Provost, Donnalynn Rainey, Barbara Schnider,

Regrets: Shauna Beauchamps, Cindy Finn, Franca Kesic, Pamela Rainone

Absent: Carmela di Iorio, Jonathan Zimmerman

Observers: Shannon Bird-Robertson, Jamie Gautreau, Robin Mehlenbacher

Recording Secretary: A. Graham

Sandra Buckingham called the meeting to order at 7:08. It was noted that quorum had been established, but that all three alternates would be eligible to vote.

1.0 Introduction and Welcome to SNAC Recording Secretary

Sandra Buckingham introduced Andrew Graham to the SNAC as the recording secretary.

2.0 Due to resignation of parent member, appointment of Alternate member

2.1 Approval, and Election [if necessary]

Diana Gerardi had to resign due to personal issues. She had been elected for a two-year term and the three alternates were asked if they would be interested in filling the position. **(SNAC1213-11.1)** Laurie Fox agreed to be the nominee and was acclaimed as the replacement.

3.0 Additions to Agenda

3.1 Approval of Agenda

(SNAC1213-11.2) It was moved by Barbara Schnider that the agenda be accepted with the addition of 6.11 Treasurer's Report and 7.2 Relative's Consultation. The motion was seconded by Allison Provost and unanimously resolved.

Kiley Philp arrived at 7:12.

4.0 Corrections to Minutes of October 24th, 2012

4.1 Approval of Minutes of October 24th, 2012

Sandra Buckingham thanked Laurie for the October minutes. It was noted that there was a letter missing in the work 'May' under item 6.9, paragraph 2. As well, Hirut Eyob should have been listed under regrets rather than absent. **(SNAC1213-11.3)** It was moved by Barbara Schnider that the minutes of October 24, 2012 should be accepted with the proposed corrections. The motion was seconded by Kiley Philp and carried unanimously.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 Appointment/Approval of Secretary Position [last call]

Laurie Fox volunteered to be SNAC's new Secretary. She was consequentially acclaimed to that position which aids and assists with various SNAC documents, including reports to external committees and responses to consultations.

5.2 Review of Special Presentation on Oct. 24: Survey results; suggestions;

The presentation held October 24th was very well received by the 44 families from 20 different schools. Responses to the feedback survey were reviewed, and the most popular suggestions for information requests included coping mechanisms and IEPs.

Jim Hendry filmed and edited the presentation which he has made available as a webcast on the SNAC website.

5.3 Motion to allocate \$25 toward a gift of appreciation for Jim Hendry (SNAC1213-11.4)

It was moved by Kiley Philp that the SNAC give a gift certificate to Jim Hendry for his efforts at the recent presentation and its subsequent editing. The motion was seconded by Laurie Fox, and was unanimously resolved with one abstention.

5.4 I.E.P Folder Project: Final content and budget approval before printing

Personal issues interrupted the final compilation of the I.E.P. folder project. The printing costs remain the same as at the last quoted price, and should come in under budget. As the next meeting is at the end of January, it was requested that an email approval be done for the final version of the I.E.P. folder project. Two versions of the final document will be included in the email vote request: one showing the most recent changes, and one being the final version.

5.5 Finalize date for School Board Budget/Finance Presentation

Carol Heffernan will be available on January 30th to explain the LBPSB budget. Specific questions should be sent to Sandra Buckingham by January 11th so that Carol Heffernan can prepare a presentation which addresses the questions.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Administration

The report from Cindy Finn was included in the kit. The report drew particular attention to item 1, the anti-bullying law. Additional information about the deadlines and their significance were provided. The December 31st deadline is to create an action plan, not to implement the plan.

It was noted that the board will be buying 150,000\$ worth of equipment for special needs.

Jennifer DiMarco arrived at 7:35pm.

6.2 Council of Commissioners

Daniel Olivenstein and Linton Garner gave a verbal report to the committee. The following items were covered in their report:

- Two parent commissioners were sworn in at the meeting on November 26th.
- The CPC will be hosting the third parent conference at Lindsay Place on Saturday, April 6th.
- The LBPSB will be the first board in Quebec to invite a student to be on Council. The student will be from the Central Students' Committee, and will be in a non-voting position.
- The draft version of the revised LBPSB Special Needs Policy is expected to be presented to the Education Committee on December 3rd, and will afterwards be sent out for additional feedback via General Consultation.
- The employment and consignment of relatives policy is being revised due to negative feedback.
- A compromise was reached for the governing board allocations. There will be a flat rate, and depending on the size of the school, there will be an additional allocation of 30 cents per child.
- There is now a program at PACC which links with Maimonides Hospital in Cote-St.-Luc.

Daniel Olivenstein and Linton Garner then responded to questions from the committee regarding the topics discussed in their report.

6.3 Central Parents' Committee

The annual report from the CPC was presented at the meeting, and a copy of the report was included in the kit. A summary of the meeting held November 1st was also included in the kit.

The CPC will be holding the third annual parents' conference on Saturday, April 6th, 2013. The SNAC made a subcommittee this year to suggest presentation material and to find parties interested in paying to have a kiosk at the parents' conference. Barbara Schnider, Donnalynn Rainey, Jennifer DiMarco, and Hirut Eyob will join Sandra Buckingham in forming the subcommittee. Others are welcome to join at a later date.

Some suggested ideas for kiosks included WIAIH, CROM, SRSOR, FDMT, and the Autism Awareness Centre (from Alberta). Suggestions for presentations included parent/child relations and coping with stress. It was also suggested that the SNAC bring pamphlets to every SNAC presentation, as parents look at materials that are available at the presentations.

The last item in the CPC report was the cancellation of the volunteer recognition event. There will still be a board-wide parent recognition award which has been renamed the Conny Held Memorial Award. Details about the location and timing of the presentation of the award will be determined at a later date.

6.4 Education Committee

The report from the previous meeting was included in the kit. It was noted that the presentation held was a robotics presentation, and that 'in the know' should be listed as 'kids in the know'. The next meeting will be held December 3rd, 2012.

6.4.1 Ed. Subcommittee: Special Needs Policy Review

SNAC has requested to receive a copy of the updated draft version of the LBPSB Special Needs Policy prior to general consultation. The Special Needs Policy Subcommittee has been meeting weekly since September. The Subcommittee will present a draft of the policy to the Education Committee at the December meeting.

6.5 P.T.U.

No report was available for the meeting.

6.6 P.A.S.A.

Jane Fullerton-Kelly provided a written report to the committee. Highlights from the report included the creation of several reports and the release of previous years' surpluses. The PASA is still awaiting information about technology budget. Jane Fullerton-Kelly then responded to questions from the committee regarding the topics discussed in the report.

6.7 Professionals

Kerry-Ann Payette provided a written report to the committee. Kerry Ann provided an in-depth report on professional development offered by consultants for special needs via various information sessions. Some sessions that took place include a New Integration Aide Orientation; NET (Network for Elementary Teachers), where Lynn Senecal discussed the latest research on ADHD. Some other sessions included HSRN (High School Resource Teacher Network) where Chris Fuzessy elaborated on how to access mental health services; a Menu of Workshops: Professional Development for all of our Paraprofessionals; a Secondary School Peace Summit; an information evening hosted by the Coop Team; and an ASD seminar series for parents held on Nov. 13th with guest speaker Cindy Coady speaking on RDI (Relationship Development Intervention) for children with ASD. Finally other sessions included the FSSTT Lecture Series. Kerry-Ann Payette then responded to questions from the committee regarding the topics discussed in the report.

6.8 I.A.S.S.

Allison Provost provided a written report to the committee. Her report focused on the feedback from the integration aide survey. It was noted that the AGM was held November 23rd, with Sylvie Frechette as the guest speaker.

6.9 Website Administrator's Report

Many emails were received this past month, mainly about the presentation held October 24th. It was noted that the counter yielded 766 hits in November.

6.10 Workshops attended/Webinars Viewed

No workshops have been attended since the last SNAC meeting.

6.11 Treasurer's report

No funds have been spent since last month. It was suggested that either the May or January meeting could include a wine & cheese celebration for the end of year celebration. Allocation of budget funds for such a celebration was postponed in case projects require the funds.

7.0 New Business

7.1 CPC Parent Conference; subcommittee; discuss target kiosks/presentations

The presentation was discussed under item 6.3.

7.2 Relative's Presentation

The presentation was discussed under item 6.2. [SNAC requested an extension to the due date for the Relatives consultation, since the deadline is January 30, which is the date of the next SNAC meeting.](#)

8.0 Correspondence

8.1 LCEEQ Conference Feb 11th, featuring a presentation by Barbara Coloroso

Information about the LCEEQ conference was included in the kit.

8.2 Canada Supreme Court ruling on Special Education Case November 9, 2012

There was a ruling in the B.C. Supreme Court case. Information about the ruling was included in the kit that was distributed via email.

8.3 WIAIH Information Session Dec 4, 2012

The WIAIH information session will be held December 4th, 2012.

9.0 Varia

Nil.

10.0 Questions from the Public

Two questions were posed by members of the public. The first was whether parents from outside of our board would be allowed to attend information sessions. It was determined that some events, such as the parent conference in April do have costs associated to them and are intended for parents within the board only. The second question posed was about tech grants and whether proposals that were not accepted may reapply. It was explained that they could, as sometimes they are not accepted due to a form not being complete in time.

11.0 Adjournment

(SNAC1213-11.5) Upon a motion by Jennifer DiMarco and seconded by Kerry-Ann Payette, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Happy Holiday Season to you and your families, and all the best for a healthy and happy New Year!
Next Meeting: Wednesday January 30, 2013 (7pm)