

 <p>The logo for the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) features a group of colorful human figures in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) standing in a semi-circle. Above them, the acronym 'SNAC' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the figures, the text 'Special Needs Advisory Committee' is written in a smaller font. To the left of the figures, there is a small circular emblem with the text 'United in Purpose' and 'Special Needs' around it. Below the emblem, it says 'Committee created under the leadership of the Minister of Education'.</p>	<p><b>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees</b>  <b>From SNAC meeting January 30, 2013</b>  <b>Page 1 of 2</b></p>
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**LBPSB Budget Process Presentation:** SNAC invited Assistant Director General Carol Heffernan to make a presentation on the LBPSB Finance budgeting process prior to the annual Budget Consultation. It was a very informative presentation and SNAC would like to thank Mrs. Heffernan. Prior to the presentation, SNAC members provided a list of specific questions to Mrs. Heffernan, with the objective of learning more about the current processes in place, so as to better meet SNAC's mandate of making recommendations as per the Education Act to "to advise the school board on the allocation of financial resources to the services intended for those students." It was noted that once again, it is expected that there will be a delay in receiving the detailed information regarding budget rules, allocation and cuts from MELS this year, which creates difficulty in financial planning and allocation of resources at the school board. It was also discussed that the annual "Validation" cycle which must be followed in order for the school board to receive funding for students with special needs is extremely detailed and lengthy, and requires an excessive amount of time and attention of our specialists, whose time would be better spent elsewhere. A discussion ensued as to whether it might be beneficial for SNAC to work with school board administration to prepare a letter to lobby the government and raise awareness regarding specific problems within the current budgeting process, and suggest solutions.

**SNAC Recording Secretary:** Due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict, it was necessary to find a new recording secretary. SNAC approved a replacement.

**SNAC Treasurer:** Due to personal reasons, SNAC's treasurer had to step down. SNAC voted to approve a replacement.

**Parent Presentation:** It was noted that both the video and the accompanying Powerpoint presentation from Dr. Cindy Finn's presentation "Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec" are now available for parents to view on the SNAC website.

**Special Needs Professionals Report:** A list of workshops that have been provided by the LBPSB professionals group to date was discussed. An online resource targeted at both parents and teachers called "The ABC's on Mental Health" [<http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/abc> ] was discussed, which provides tips for recognizing mental health and behavioural problems in children, and provide prevention and intervention strategies to manage behaviours in the classroom and at home.

**CPC Parent Conference:** SNAC has been working in conjunction with CPC to plan the parent conference to be held at Lindsay Place High school on Saturday, April 6, 2013. WIAIH has confirmed their participation in a kiosk, and other agencies servicing the special needs community have been invited. Professionals from the Student Services will present workshops on a number of topics, including "iPads and Social Stories in Autism" and "Kids that Jiggle and Wiggle – understanding gender differences in behaviour and ADHD". In addition, there will be a presentation on "Brain Gym". It was discussed that parents of children with special needs have expressed interest in a workshop on mechanisms for coping with stress, so that possibility will be investigated. Several SNAC members volunteered to help set up and respond to questions from parents and distribute the SNAC pamphlet at the SNAC kiosk.

**LBPSB Consultation: Employment And Assignment Of Relatives::** SNAC will be preparing a response with the suggestion to set a time limit to the "grandfathering" clause for existing relationships.

**Letter of Support: WIAIH [West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped]:** WIAIH offers services to the Intellectually Handicapped and those with Autism, and would like to expand their current Pat Roberts Center location to create a Community Center in Ste Genevieve. In order to fund the project, WIAIH is lobbying for financial support from the government, and has thus far obtained the support of local MPs. SNAC discussed writing a letter of support for WIAIH, and has requested consent from LBPSB Administration to do so.

 <p><b>SNAC</b> Special Needs Advisory Committee</p>	<p><b>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees</b> <b>From SNAC meeting January 30, 2013</b> <b>Page 2 of 2</b></p>
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**Special Needs Policy Review Subcommittee:** The LBPSB S.N Policy Review Subcommittee has created a second draft based on feedback from the Management Committee, and will be submitting the new Draft Policy to the Education Committee on Monday, Feb 4, 2013. SNAC was informed that school Principals make up the majority of the members on the Management committee, in addition to LBPSB Directors. SNAC had previously requested that a copy of the Draft(s) be forwarded to SNAC for the committee's feedback and comments, prior to the general consultation, which was denied.

**Pilot Project at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School:** A question from the public advised SNAC of a pilot project that was started this year at PETES wherein 12 boys on IEPs for behavioural difficulties were grouped together in one classroom. This raised some concerns from parents about the school board's future direction with respect to the integration of special needs children with mainstream students in regular classrooms. Concerns were raised regarding the ability of individual schools to make grouping decisions, and the extent to which school board professionals and parents are, or are not, consulted on these decisions. It was also discussed whether SNAC should be informed of special projects such as these, in order to share results and best practices throughout the school board.

**Questions from the Public:** In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Electronic IEP Form drop-down form lists a set of goals that follow the Quebec Education Plan, however it is possible for resource team members to enter a customized goal for a child via a "blank" field in the IEP form.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Buckingham, Chair  
Barbara Schnider, Vice Chair  
Special Needs Advisory Committee, LBPSB