

 <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, black font. To the left of the figures, there is a small circular logo with the text 'Special Needs Advisory Committee' and 'Under the Patronage of the Board of Education'.</p>	<p>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees From SNAC meeting November 28, 2012 Page 1 of 1</p>
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SNAC Committee: Due to the resignation of a full time parent member for personal reasons, the committee needed to fill the position. Alternate parent members were asked if they wished to assume a full-time position. One parent volunteered to replace the resigned parent, and was acclaimed to the position. Moreover, the same parent volunteered to assume the role of SNAC Secretary.

Parent Presentation: The survey/feedback results from Dr. Cindy Finn’s “Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec” presentation were most optimistic and encouraging. Particularly, all the respondents responded that the presentation was most beneficial and valuable. Additionally, the survey enlightened SNAC as to which topics might interest parents. Workshops regarding coping mechanisms for parents; IEPs; services offered in different schools, and more were specified by the parents who responded.

IEP Resource Folder: The final layout of the IEP Resource Folder content documents as proposed by the IEP Subcommittee will be finalized by SNAC members in the coming weeks, and will then be sent to print. The budget allocated for the folders was finalized, and is under the initial budgeted amount.

Finance Presentation: On January 30, 2013 the SNAC committee will hear a presentation by Assistant Director General Carol Heffernan (previously Director of Finance) regarding the School Board Budgeting process, and Budget Allocations with respect to students with Special Needs. SNAC members will endeavour to submit as many questions in advance as possible for Mrs. Heffernan to address.

Administration Report: Christopher Fuzessy reported that workshops were held for in-school Administrators to support Success Plan reporting as well as planning for Bill 56. It was noted that in the case where a student with Special Needs exhibits violent behaviour, their file will be considered, as well as any potential “triggers” (such as medication changes) before initiating a report. Mr. Fuzessy also informed SNAC that SSD, ESD and IS continue to work together to deploy technology to support students with Special Needs. This includes 150K worth of purchases, installation and training for specialized software and web-based programs (e.g: Rosetta Stone, Kurzweil). Each installation is personalized to meet the specific needs of the child. It was also noted that NTIC (technology) grant requests are now accepted every 6 weeks, versus twice per year previously.

CPC Parent Conference: Once again, SNAC will work in conjunction with CPC to plan the parent conference to be held at Lindsay Place High school on Saturday, April 6, 2013 SNAC brainstormed as to the various kiosk and guest speakers to invite to participate in this well attended conference. 5 SNAC members volunteered to join the CPC Parent Conference Subcommittee, created to support the representation of topics of interest to parents of children with special needs at the conference.

“Relatives” Consultation: SNAC has not yet received a copy of this LBPSB Consultation, but expects it shortly. SNAC has requested a one-month extension to the Jan 30, 2013 deadline for response, as that is the same date as the committee’s next meeting, and the members did not feel it was appropriate to discuss a Consultation via email.

Special Needs Policy Review Subcommittee: The LBPSB S.N Policy Review Subcommittee will be submitting the new Draft Policy to the Education Committee on Monday, Dec 3, 2012. SNAC has requested that a copy of the Draft be forwarded to SNAC for the committee’s feedback and comments, prior to the general consultation.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Buckingham, Chair
Special Needs Advisory Committee, LBPSB