

	<p><b>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees</b>  <b>From Final SNAC meeting of the year: May 30, 2012</b>  <b>Page 1 of 2</b></p>
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**SNAC AGA 2012:** The SNAC AGA date has been confirmed for September 19th, 2012 and will take place in the LBPSB Boardroom. Parents of students with special needs will be invited to attend via posters to be hung up in the schools as well as through the LBPSB and SNAC websites.

**SNAC Priority Projects:**

SNAC members have been busy and are making great progress on the priority projects identified in January:

- A seminar organized by SNAC for parents of students with special needs took place on May 23, 2012 in the LBPSB Boardroom. The presentation entitled: "Advocating for Your Child in the School System: A Toolbox for Parents ", was given by Maureen Hunt. An electronic copy of the invitation was provided to school Administrators for distribution, and was also displayed on the SNAC and LBPSB websites, as well as the websites of some schools. Paper copies of the invitation were also sent to Resource Teams at Elementary level schools. The seminar was well attended, with parents present from 20 of our schools. A feedback questionnaire provided insight into the concerns and preoccupations of our special needs community.
- An IEP Resource Kit was discussed, including a folder that parents could use to organize their IEP documents. The Kit would include the SNAC pamphlet as well as IEP Preparation documents. The layout and costs for enough folders for all students with IEPs throughout the school board, currently estimated at 3000, was approved. A subcommittee has been established to work on this project and will continue this work over the coming weeks, with the aim of distributing the Kits at the start of the next school year.

**SNAC Constitution:** Members voted in favor of a revised Constitution for SNAC. Updates included adding email voting procedures, and increasing the number of Alternate Parent Members from 2 to 4 to enable additional parents to participate in the committee.

**SNAC Annual Report:** For the first time, SNAC has prepared an Annual Report to outline the committee's accomplishments this year, as well as to provide recommendations to next year's committee. Final changes will be made within the next week. The report will be distributed to the various levels of parents' committees, as well as LBPSB Administration and Council of Commissioners.

**Administration Report:** Student Services is assisting schools in the planning process for students with special needs at various points of transition: new students, transition to high school and those leaving the system. A Central Parity Workshop was held for Elementary schools on May 18, 2012, and featured a review of the mandates of the Central and School level committees in the distribution of resources and organization of services for students with special needs. Cindy Finn discussed the milestones and projected timeline for Special Needs Funding for 2012/2013, but explained that the school board's timelines are dependent upon MELS, and must also respect union requirements. SNAC is expected to request a presentation from Finance as early as possible next school year.

**LBPSB Special Needs Policy Review Subcommittee:** At the next meeting, the subcommittee will review the recommendations from SNAC, and discuss which ones can be implemented. The subcommittee will continue to meet in June and in the fall. The current estimate for a first draft of the revised policy is November, 2012.

**Pearson Teacher's Union (PTU) Report:** The union has had two changes in Executive. The current focus is on staffing. AGM will take place June 6.

**Student Services Professionals Report:** Consultants and professionals have been involved in preparing for students with special needs who have registered for 2012-2013, including visits to daycare, school and home settings, as well as rehabilitation centers as required. It is estimated that approximately 50 new students with special needs who will require intervention will enter the system in Kindergarten next year.

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**Independent Union of Support Staff (IASS):** The union is very concerned about MELS proposed budget cuts, and the potential effect on the number of special needs Integration Aides/Techs that will be hired next school year. The Integration Aide Survey results will be presented to the LBPSB Special Needs Policy Review Subcommittee in September, 2012, as well as to SNAC.

**“Take a Break to Concentrate”: Sensory Break Pilot Program at Lakeside Academy:** A report was provided by Michelle Harper, principal, as described by Ms. Sarah Bachand, teacher, outlining a grant received from the Pearson Education Foundation to purchase exercise equipment for a classroom. The project was a great success, by decreasing negative behaviours in the classroom and enabling the students to be more attentive, leading to a much more positive atmosphere in the classroom, and producing work of higher quality.

**Presentation: MIRA Support Dog:** A SNAC member shared their experience regarding the application process, training period and results following a recent acquisition of a MIRA Support dog for a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder. While the training period was arduous, the MIRA group was complemented on making the application process extremely easy, supportive and free of charge. The end result has been an excellent support for the child.

Respectfully submitted,

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