



### **SNAC Priority Projects: Internal Survey Results**

Further to a brainstorming session from the last meeting, an internal survey was created to ask SNAC members to prioritize the list of 11 projects that had been suggested. The response was excellent, with responses from 6 parent and 4 staff SNAC members. The top 5 ranking priority projects were:

- Host a Parent Seminar to inform and support S.N. parents, as well as encourage networking.
- Create and distribute IEP Preparation Documents, to help parents better prepare for IEP meetings.
- Update the SNAC Pamphlet and “Navigating the System” Handbook, to inform S.N. parents of the resources available to them, and the process to follow to get help.
- Participate in the CPC Parent Conference.
- Establish a Sensory Breaks Program at LBPSB, to communicate the benefit of sensory breaks as a “whole class” approach to benefit both special needs and mainstream students, such as the “Brain Gain” program, yoga, ergonomic balls, stationary bikes, treadmills, etc.

### **SNAC Priority Projects: Subcommittees and Timeline**

Various members volunteered to work on the priority projects, and subcommittees were formed. Goals include:

- Completing the SNAC pamphlet in time for distribution at the CPC Parent Conference (March 31, 2012).
- SNAC/CPC shared kiosk at the Parent Conference, with parents present during the registration and lunch periods to respond to questions. A SNAC banner will be printed. SNAC will contact and invite 2-3 third parties offering Special Needs Services to present a kiosk at the event (CROM, WIAIH, LDAQ).
- IEP Preparation Documentation, and potentially some additional Tips&Tricks documentation, in April.
- A parent seminar is in the planning stages: “Advocating for the Child in the School System, A Toolbox for Parents”, by Maureen Hunt, on May 23, 2012. A flyer is being prepared to advertise the event.
- The remainder of the projects will be discussed as the year progresses, with the expectation that some projects will roll over into next year.

**Administration Report:** Cindy Finn advised the group that 150 S.N. dossiers have been to MELS for review. She also explained that further to Bill 21, in certain specific cases psychologists may now provide an assessment of Autism that will be recognized by MELS [which in the past required an assessment from a psychiatrist]. Final decisions from MELS will be shared with the board in March 2012, so it will be interesting to watch this development. Cindy Finn also advised that the school registration process will begin shortly, and as in past years, Student Services and Admissions are working together to ensure that students with special needs are flagged immediately upon registration. It was discussed whether it might be useful to provide the new SNAC pamphlet at registration next year.

**Education: Subcommittee to review the LBPSB Special Needs Policy:** Daniel Olivenstein and Cindy Finn informed the group that the subcommittee has been reviewing pertinent documentation, and will receive information relative to the Teachers Collective Agreement, as it pertains to Special Needs, at their next meeting. SNAC has requested to obtain a copy of the minutes of the meeting, in order to also be informed of those issues. SNAC has accepted the invitation to provide initial suggestions for the revision of the policy at the subcommittee’s April meeting.



**P.A.S.A:** Jane Fullerton-Kelly advised the group that this year elementary boardwide testing is being scheduled over the next four months, rather than grouped together at the end of the year, with the MELS exams for Grade 6 still administered in May and June. This will allow resource teachers more time to provide support to S.N. students needing adaptations or modifications at each grade level.

**I.A.S.S** Margo Edwards was unable to attend the meeting, but provided a written report to advise the group that the request to increase the Special Education Technician work week by 5 hours (from 25 to 30 hours) has been denied, however they intend to present the request again during the upcoming staffing process.

**Professionals Report** Pam Normandin informed the group of various workshops that will be offered next month, including one at Westpark Elementary, 4 workshop topics for Integration Aides/Special Ed Techs on the Feb 10 PED day. Professionals also attended a recent workshop at the MacKay Center, to help to prepare parents of children with physical disabilities who will be starting Kindergarten next year.

**New Business: LBPSB Budget Consultation:** SNAC will be working on a response to this consultation.

**Next Meeting:** The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 7pm at the school board.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Buckingham  
Chair, Special Needs Advisory Committee