



Business Arising

The group was informed of the SNAC annual budget and carry-over funds available. A Recording Secretary was appointed.

Parent Positions

Due to the resignation of a parent on SNAC, a one year position became vacant. A parent who previously held an alternate position was appointed to fill the seat.

IASS Report: Margo Edwards advised the group that the union has begun to survey Integration/Tech Aides for feedback regarding their job descriptions. An update will be provided when results are available.

SNAC Website

Last year SNAC had inquired as to whether a link to the SNAC website could be placed on each school's website. The request was granted and as a result, the visibility of the committee has increased and has resulted in a substantial amount of traffic on the website. The SNAC website will link to the new complaints flowchart on the LBPSB website.

Education Subcommittee: Special Needs Policy Review

It was reported that the subcommittee met once, and that another meeting is planned for Dec.8, 2011. The current policy and supporting documents are being looked at. It is felt that it will take the better part of the year to draft a new policy. SNAC had made requests via CPC and Education Committee for inclusion in the subcommittee, and an official letter was sent to Commissioner Barbara Freeston, Chairperson of the Education Committee, however the decision was made not to include a SNAC parent member on the subcommittee. The SNAC members discussed options for establishing a means of obtaining regular reports from the Subcommittee and the opportunity to provide feedback, perhaps on a quarterly basis.

Workshops Attended

SNAC parent members attended various workshops throughout the month of November and found them to be very informative. Written reports were provided so that the entire team could benefit from the experience. They included: "Peer Related Difficulties for Students on The Autism Spectrum", facilitated by Deb Kellman and Mona Segal, in conjunction with the Board's Centre Of Excellence For ASD; " How Does Your Engine Run: The ALERT Program for Self- Regulation", "Child Psychopharmacology"; and " Social Thinking : Exploring the Spectrum of Perspective Taking and Teaching with Social Thinking Vocabulary ", facilitated by Michelle Garcia Winner.

Discussion of Supervisor/S.N. Student Ratio at large outings

An incident occurred in which a special needs child went missing during a recent outdoor event. A discussion ensued as to what process changes could be suggested to reduce the risk of recurrence in the future. Suggestions included reinforcing the need for discussion of supervision of S.N. students at the next Regional Directors and Administrators meetings, as well as with Governing Board Chairs.

Brainstorming Session

Members held a brainstorming session to discuss several potential projects for the year. The goal is to choose a few projects that would benefit students and parents and would help to provide parents with information related to special needs. The next step will be to establish priorities so that work may begin in January.

Next Meeting: The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7pm at the school board.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Schnider

Vice Chair, Special Needs Advisory Committee