



Election: SNAC Parent Representatives (AGA, October 12, 2011)

SNAC parent terms are offered as either one-year or two-year terms, to ensure consistency and avoid the situation where all parent members need to be re-elected at the same time.

The following parents will continue for the second year of their term: Jennifer DiMarco and Ester Maturi.

The following parents were elected for new two-year terms: Sandra Buckingham, Kiley Philp, Barbara Schnider.

The following parent was elected for a new one-year term: Angela Berryman.

The following parents were elected as Alternates (one-year term): Irene Bilaj, Chantal Robichaud, Aisha Ghauri.

SNAC Parent Representatives to Committees (meeting following AGA, October 12, 2011)

The SNAC Parent Representatives to committees were filled:

CPC: Sandra Buckingham; Alternate: Angela Berryman

Education: Barbara Schnider; Alternate: Kiley Philp

Council: Irene Bilaj; Alternate: Barbara Schnider

SNAC Meeting Dates (meeting following AGA, October 12, 2011)

SNAC will meet on the last Wednesday of the month, with no meetings in December or June. Meeting dates are posted on the SNAC website: <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/>. Due to the absence of last year's Chair at the AGA, the SNAC Executive Elections were deferred to an additional meeting on October 26, 2011.

SNAC Executive Elections (October 26, 2011)

The following positions were filled:

Chair: Sandra Buckingham

Vice Chair: Barbara Schnider

Treasurer: Aisha Ghauri

Secretary: Angela Berryman

Presentation: Cindy Finn, Director of Student Services

A very informative presentation providing an overview of Special Needs services at LBPSB, including coding, funding, partnership programs, special grants, Centers of Excellence and more.

Website Administrator:

Jennifer DiMarco volunteered to be the SNAC website administrator again this year.

Process and Timeline for Allocating Support Services to Students with Special Needs:

SNAC parent members had expressed concern last year that support services are only allocated after the school year has already begun, and were hoping to establish a means for allocating services earlier, perhaps before the previous school year has ended. Cindy Finn and Joanne Simoneau-Polenz explained the budget and union



parameters that make this difficult. Ideally, special needs funding information would be sent to schools in mid-May, with adjustments in June and final adjustments in August. However last year funding from MELS was received in June, rather than in April. And the new teacher's collective agreement which reduced classroom sizes due to "weighting" of certain S.N. codes complicated the planning process. Furthermore, the 10% carryover limit of budget surplus prevents the board from allocating services based on early estimates and correcting later. As a result, a cautious approach is taken and services are officially allocated only when incoming funding and number of S.N. students is confirmed.

Administration Report: Cindy Finn informed the group that the review process for Success Plans is underway. Budget adjustments have been made so that IEP Release Days have been increased, allowing for teachers to be replaced by substitutes so that they may use this time for IEP meetings, or for training, during school hours. The Student Services department participated in a province-wide videoconference "Rencontre Nationale" on October 25, 2011 "Levers of Success for Special Needs Students". Two additional Rencontres Nationale are forthcoming to discuss English in French schools and the use of technology in schools.

Council Report: Commissioner Daniel Olivenstein provided a verbal report from the Council meeting October 24, 2011, noting that the LBPSB Finance Department has presented a balanced budget. He also noted that with the retirement of Vivienne Croubalian and her replacement by Steve Balleine and Carol Heffernan, as well as other HR changes, the board would realise a savings of \$50-60K.

CPC Report: Sandra Buckingham provided a written report for the three CPC meetings that have taken place so far this year. A summary of the new CPC Executive was provided, and an explanation of the new Region/breakout meeting structure was explained.

Education Report: Commissioner Daniel Olivenstein explained that contrary to what was previously discussed, there would be no SNAC parent representative on the Education Subcommittee that has been established to review and update the LBPSB Special Needs Policy. Feedback would be provided via the Commissioner, and Consultations. No date has been set for the first meeting of the Subcommittee. The next meeting of the Ed Committee will be November 7, 2011, and Barbara Schnider will attend as SNAC parent rep.

P.A.S.A. Report: Jane Fullerton-Kelly, Principal of St Lawrence Academy Sr., informed the group that schools are finalizing their Special Needs plans, and noted that Principals are pleased about the increase in IEP Release Days. NET workshops have started for resource teachers.

Professionals Report: Pamela Normandin, LBPSB Special Needs Consultant, informed the group that orientation sessions have taken place for new Resource Teachers and Integration Aides. Elementary Consultants have worked on changing the IEP objectives to coincide with the new report cards. Professional Development sessions will be taking place on Autism, Mental Health, Death and Grieving, and Anxiety. Two new lecture series will take place in November: "Social Thinking" and "Peer Related Difficulties for Students with Asperger's and High Functioning ASD".

IASS Report: Margo Edwards advised the group that there was no news regarding the request by Special Ed Techs to increase in their working hours from 25 to 30 hours per week.



SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees
From SNAC AGA October 12, 2011
and SNAC meeting October 26, 2011
Page 3 of 3

Enrollment Criteria Consultation: The group discussed the changes to Enrollment Criteria relative to Special Needs, and decided that it was not necessary to provide a response.

Next Meeting: The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 7pm at the school board.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Buckingham
Chair, Special Needs Advisory Committee