

Special Needs Advisory Committee
Wednesday November 25, 2009
1925 Brookdale, Dorval

Minutes

Helen Finn called the meeting to order at 7: 05 p.m.

In attendance: Margo Edwards, Cindy Finn, Helen Finn, Judy Kelley, Lorraine Meilleur, Daniel Olivenstein, David O'Leary, Kerry Payette, Myriam Rabbat, Joanne Simoneau-Polenz, Judith Waugh

Regrets: Franca Kesic, Sean O'Reilly, Angela Whelton, Lynda Robitaille (resigned), Chris Fuzessy

Observers: Jennifer Duthie, Christine Bartram

Minutes recorded by Cindy Finn

1.0 Additions to the Agenda

Under New Business add :

5.1 IEP and Report Cards

5.2 Parent Support Groups

1.1 Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Helen Finn, seconded by David O'Leary and unanimously resolved that the Agenda of November 25th, 2009 be approved.

2.0 Correction to Minutes of October 14, 2009

- None

2.1 Approval of Minutes of October 14., 2009

It was moved by Judith Waugh seconded by Helen Finn and unanimously resolved that the Minutes of October 14th, 2009 be approved.

3.0 Business Arising

4.1 Consultation : Major School Change

Helen Finn contacted France Goyette concerning the late submission of the SNAC Brief. It will be submitted within the next two days and will then be posted along with all the other briefs on the LBPSB website. Helen circulated the draft of the response and solicited input from all committee members. She advised the committee to please send any further comments via email.

4.0 Reports

4.1 Administration

Report by Cindy Finn.

The Major School Change consultation has been underway with the deadline for submission of briefs being the 31st of October and review of briefs by the administration team to be completed by November 3rd.

The public hearings took place on Nov 17-18-19 and the next step will be the creation of scenarios with the goal of the vote being taken at the December Council of Commissioners meeting.

The Administration has also been busy keeping up with latest information and tracking of H1N1. Reports of absences were tallied and sent to MSSS and the organization of vaccinations for students is underway.

The FPPE has named Dr. Elana Bloom as the 2009 young professional of the year. This group represents non teaching professionals in education. Dr. Bloom is a psychologist with LBPSB who has been recognized for her many achievements in our system as well as a researcher and lecturer at McGill

4.2 Council of Commissioners

Report by Daniel Olivenstein.

Major school change is a big focus of discussion. Off Island zoning is delayed pending the confirmation of a building site for a new school. New committees have been created (audit, ethics). Electoral zones will be reviewed and council has asked for 5 additional seats since the new council will go from 21 to 10 seats. A request was sent to MELS for reimbursement of costs due to H1N1.

4.3 Central Parents' Committee

See written report submitted by David O'Leary.

4.4 Education Committee

No Report

4.5 P.T.U.

No Report

4.6 P.A.S.A.-

Report by Miriam Rabbat

Nothing new to report this month.

4.7 Professionals

Report by Kerry Payette

The professionals have been busy with professional development sessions this past month.

At the elementary level they are continuing to give differentiation and IEP workshops and well as training resource teachers on PRIME (Math assesment and differentiation tool).

At the secondary level the HSRN (High School Resource Network) met on Nov. 5th. At this meeting Chris Fuzessy of Student Services gave a presentation on Alternative Schools. Diana Carr presented information on ALDI and Live Classroom PDD and Elana Bloom spoke about the Table Clientel.

November 19th was a workshop day for over 350 of our paraprofessionals. A menu of workshops was organized so all participants could participate in a workshop of particular interest to them.

The consultants are also looking at the technology needs for handicapped children in order to make optimal use of the MELS grant designated for this purpose.

4.8 IASS

Report by Margo Edwards

The Annual General Meeting was held on November 20, 2009 at PCHS. The guest speaker was a comedian and substitute teacher.

4.9 Treasurer's Report

Report by Anne Smart

No changes to report

5.0 New Business

David O'Leary brought up the issue of reporting and IEP's. It was explained that there is a difference between modifications and adaptations and how a student's progress is reported upon. There was a general discussion about the parent's role in the IEP process and there was interest expressed in organizing an evening next fall. It was suggested this be discussed further in January.

There was also some discussion concerning communication challenges and there was interest expressed in setting up a SNAC tab on the website. David offered to work with IS to see what would be involved. There was also an exchange of information about local resources for parents which includes support groups and books.

6.0 Correspondence

Pearson News distributed

7.0 Varia

8.0 Adjournment

It was moved by Helen Finn, seconded by David O'Leary, and unanimously resolved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25

Date of Next Meeting: January 27 2010 7:00pm Room 219/221