

 <p>The logo for the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) features a group of colorful human figures in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) standing in a line. Above them, the acronym 'SNAC' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the figures, the full name 'Special Needs Advisory Committee' is written in a smaller, black font. To the left of the figures, there is a small circular logo with the text 'Special Needs Advisory Committee' and 'Linda M. Pearson'.</p>	<p><b>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees</b>  <b>From SNAC meeting March 13, 2013</b>  <b>Page 1 of 1</b></p>
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**Meeting rescheduled:** The SNAC meeting originally scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to the snowstorm, and replaced with this reduced-agenda meeting. The next SNAC meeting will take place in two weeks, as previously scheduled, on Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

**Letter of Support: WIAIH [West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped]:** WIAIH offers services to the Intellectually Handicapped and those with Autism, and would like to expand their current Pat Roberts Center location to create a Community Center in Ste Genevieve. In order to fund the project, WIAIH is lobbying for financial support from the government, and has thus far obtained the support of local MNAs. SNAC completed and approved a letter of support for WIAIH [attached] to aid in this lobbying process.

**SNAC IEP Resource Kit:** The text for the content of the IEP Resource Kit, to be provided to all parents of children with special needs throughout the school board, was reviewed. Final updates are expected to be presented for approval at the next meeting, at which point the content will be sent to the printer. Current estimates indicate that there are approximately 3000 students with special needs within LBPSB. Between 3500 and 4000 kits will be printed, depending on budget availability, in order to provide for additional kits for future years. SNAC has budgeted for plain white envelopes to place the Kits in for distribution to parents, in order to maintain the confidentiality of the recipients.

**Transition Planning:** The process of “transition planning” has begun to prepare students with special needs for the transition from Elementary to High School, as well as for new students with special needs entering into Kindergarten next year. Transition planning also takes place in our Elementary schools with Junior and Senior campuses. The Student Services Department has forms that are used by schools to aid in documenting and planning for this transition, to ensure the transfer of information between the teachers, resource teachers, support staff and principals of the previous school and the new school. If required, students with special needs are accompanied on visits to their future high schools by their Integration Aides and/or Resource Teachers, to aid with a successful transition.

**SNAC Website Update:** We are extremely pleased to see that the SNAC website is growing in popularity, and had an incredible 1422 hits in the month of February! A new Tab has been added to the website: “External Reports” which includes the summary reports that are provided after each SNAC meeting. The goal is to provide simple to read information to our parent population, who may not have the time to read the more detailed minutes. SNAC Responses to Consultations and the SNAC Annual Report are also provided in this section of the SNAC website.

**New project: SNAC Advertizing and Awareness Campaign :** With the objective of increasing awareness amongst parents of children with Special Needs about the role of SNAC and the resources that we offer, a new advertizing campaign was proposed, with more details to follow at our next meeting.

**LBPSB Budget Consultation:** SNAC reviewed last year’s consultation response, and made several modifications and discussed new additions. The final response will be presented for approval at the next SNAC meeting. Further to the initial discussion at our last meeting, SNAC members agreed that it would be beneficial for SNAC to work with school board administration to prepare a letter to lobby the government and raise awareness regarding specific problems within the current budgeting process, and suggest solutions. The work on the content for this letter will resume during the committee’s April meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Buckingham,  
 Chairperson, Special Needs Advisory Committee, LBPSB