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LBPSB Budget Consultation: SNAC members reviewed the final changes to the budget consultation response, and approved the final version to be submitted. The document will be added to SNAC's website, <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca> under the "External Reports" tab, so that any individual or group may read more about the issues of importance to SNAC.

LBPSB "Safe and Caring Schools" Consultation: SNAC members expressed concern that students with special needs have an increased risk for bullying. Specific concerns within the school setting, within the context of the new guidelines, were discussed, and will be summarized in the group's consultation response. It was discussed that the deadline for the consultation response is problematic: since the deadline is before SNAC's May meeting, it only allows for one more opportunity for group discussion and finalization at our April meeting.

LBPSB "Students with Special Needs" Consultation: SNAC members expressed concern about the timeline for response of two very important policies [Safe and Caring, and Special Needs] that are both taking place within the same time frame. It is understood that the Safe and Caring must be put into place in order to meet with requirements of the law, but the short timeline for response of the "Students with Special Needs" consultation was put into question. As other stakeholders will be providing input via their unions and associations, SNAC feels it is important to take the time to receive input from the LBPSB parent population regarding the proposed policy, and consider this input prior to the Response to Consultation. An open invitation will be placed on SNAC's website to invite input, and SNAC has also requested that an email message be sent to all parents within the school board to invite them to contact SNAC with their comments.

In addition, several groups who are preparing responses to the Consultation have requested input from SNAC regarding the proposed policy. SNAC was not involved in the development of the proposed policy, and received the Consultation at the same time as all other groups. However, prior to the development of the policy, SNAC prepared a document [dated April 17, 2012] outlining our suggestions for updating the policy. This document outlines various concerns and suggestions from SNAC, and may be found on our website <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca> under the "External Reports" tab. Groups may feel free to refer to this document, or to SNAC's Budget Consultation Response 2013-2014, if it may be helpful for sparking discussion on the topic of special needs.

SNAC: Open Invitation for Feedback from Parents: As discussed above, SNAC would like to invite all parents, whether they have a child with special needs or not, to send SNAC their comments, concerns and/or suggestions regarding the LBPSB proposed policy update for students with special needs. Comments may be sent to SNAC via email at: snac@lbpearson.qc.ca **before May 15, 2013**. To learn more about the proposed LBPSB policy, please visit the LBPSB website: <http://lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/Consultations/Consultations.asp>: **"Students with Special Needs: Policy on the Organization of Services"**

SNAC AGM 2013 and Constitution: The group discussed various options for the next Annual General Meeting, where parent members are elected by popular vote, and settled on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at 7pm, at the School Board Boardroom. The "SNAC Constitution" document will be added to the "General Information" section of the SNAC website, so that parents who may be interested in joining can read more about the group.

Treasurer's Report: SNAC reviewed it's available budget, and approved expenses for 3750 IEP Resource Kits, 2500 additional SNAC Pamphlets to support events/workshops in future years, 120 Posters to advertise the 2013 SNAC AGM, the entrance fees for SNAC members to attend two third-party workshops, and a nominal advertizing fee to support the new SNAC Advertizing and Awareness Campaign. It was noted once again that due to the generosity of parent members who have donated coffee and snacks for every meeting, as well as a much appreciated volunteer Recording Secretary, SNAC's operational costs have been nil this year, so that all of our funds have been applied solely to our projects.

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SNAC IEP Resource Kit: The content of the IEP Resource Kit, to be provided to all parents of children with special needs throughout the school board, was finalised, approved, and is ready to be sent to print. Students from two high schools will participate in collating the 3750 kits, and SNAC is grateful for their help.

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 discussed. The editor of the LBPSB “Pearson News” monthly newsletter has kindly accepted to include a paragraph about SNAC in every edition, and the Regional Directors of Schools have kindly agreed to request that school principals include the same paragraph in their monthly newsletters to parents. SNAC members discussed the content for the next 5 months, to be known as “SNAC Chat”. In addition, companies/services that are listed in the “Links” section of the SNAC website will be contacted, and requested to include a link-back to the SNAC website. And finally, individual advertizing opportunities at various schools/events will be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on budget availability.

Alternative Placement Programs: The Assistant Director of the Student Services Department, Christopher Fuzessy, who previously held the position of Principal of Alternative Schools, has kindly agreed to speak at SNAC’s May 29th meeting on the subject of Alternative placement programs within LBPSB.

Workshop Reports: SNAC members who attended two recent Workshops prepared written reports to share the experience with all members: “Coping with the daily challenges of raising a child with developmental disabilities” and “Beyond Sticks and Stones: What Parents Need to Know about Kids and Bullying”.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2013 at 7pm, at the School Board, Room 219/221

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Buckingham,
Chairperson, Special Needs Advisory Committee, LBPSB