

**Special Needs Advisory Committee**  
Wednesday January 27, 2010  
1925 Brookdale, Dorval

**Minutes**

Helen Finn called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**In attendance:** Margo Edwards, Cindy Finn, Helen Finn, Christopher Fuzessy, Judy Kelley, Franca Kesic, Daniel Olivenstein, David O'Leary, Sean O'Reilly, Kerry Payette, Myriam Rabbat, Anne Smart, Judith Waugh

**Regrets:** Lorraine Meilleur, Angela Whelton, Joanne Simoneau-Polenz

**Observers:** Jennifer Duthie, Lynn Desrocher, Linda Robichaud

*Minutes recorded by Sean O'Reilly*

**1.0 Additions to the Agenda**

**1.1 Approval of Agenda**

*It was moved by Helen Finn, seconded by David O'Leary, and unanimously resolved that the Agenda of January 27th, 2009 be approved.*

**2.0 Correction to Minutes of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

- None

**2.1 Approval of Minutes of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

*It was moved by Helen Finn, seconded by David O'Leary, and unanimously resolved that the Minutes of November 25<sup>th</sup> be approved.*

**3.0 Business Arising**

**3.1 Major School Change**

Linda Robichaud voiced concerns for the students with special needs currently attending Jubilee. The transition from a bilingual program to an immersion program may be difficult for these students. The mandate of SNAC was reviewed and assurances were made that support follows the students as they change schools.

**3.2 Information Evening**

An information evening for parents with the purpose of addressing some of their concerns and answering a variety of questions is to be planned. A sub-committee will be created to organize and plan this event. It will have to be determined the topics to be covered and the target audience. David O'Leary will head this sub-committee along with Anne Smart, Cindy Finn, Margo Edwards and Helen Finn.

## **4.0 Reports**

### **4.1 Administration**

Report by Cindy Finn

Administrators are planning for what needs to be done with respect to the Major School Change decisions taken by Council in December. A new literacy program is to be implemented. Meetings have been held with parents at Jubilee, Terry Fox and Purcell Academy.

The Board is also gearing up for registration week to be held the first week of February. The student services professionals will review the files of new students with special needs in order to ensure as smooth a transition to school as possible for these students.

### **4.2 Council of Commissioners**

Report by Daniel Olivestein

The December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was largely devoted to Major School Change. Council also received the list of capital projects to be carried out in the next year as well as modification of the three year plan. The youth and adult calendars were modified. Zoning issues for the off-island territory of the board have caused delays, but there has been some progress made on this issue.

### **4.3 Central Parents' Committee**

No Report

### **4.4 Education Committee**

Report by Cindy Finn

It was a rather short meeting and no new decisions were made.

### **4.5 P.T.U.-**

No Report

### **4.6 P.A.S.A.**

Report by Myriam Rabbat

The schools have been holding open houses in preparation for registration week. New kindergarten students and their parents are invited to tour the schools.

### **4.7 Professionals**

Report by Kerry Payette

Presentations concerning IEP's are ongoing at the elementary level. Diana Carr has been meeting with consultants to discuss technology and its applications for students with special needs. Innovations such as the "Smart Pen" and applications that can be used on an ipod are now being reviewed to determine if their use would be feasible for students.

#### **4.8 IASS-**

Report by Margo Edwards

Negotiations are still ongoing. The Union Executive Committee has been visiting schools affected by Major School Change to meet with members.

#### **4.9 Treasurer's Report**

Report by Anne Smart

No changes since the last report.

#### **5.0 New Business**

David O'Leary discussed the possibility of SNAC having it's own web page. The site would be linked with the LBPSB site. The site could contain mailing lists and event calendars.

Helen Finn talked about the call for projects from MELS. Cindy Finn spoke more about these types of grants and the various restrictions for the types of projects approved.

#### **6.0 Correspondence**

Pearson News distributed

Connections Newsletter distributed

ASD Newsletter distributed

ASD Flyer distributed

Franca Kesic will email members the schedule of upcoming WIAIH events.

#### **7.0 Varia**

SNAC has approved expenses for Judith Waugh to attend a series of seminars. A presentation on dyslexia may take place at the next meeting if possible.

#### **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 8:55 p.m.

**Date of Next Meeting: February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 7:00pm Room 219/221**