



Special Needs Advisory
Committee (SNAC)

Special Needs Advisory Committee
Lester B. Pearson School Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING –OCTOBER 2ND, 2013

Held at the Lester B. Pearson School Board, 1925 Brookdale, Dorval Room 219/221

In Attendance: Sandra Buckingham, Marie-Eve Claude, Cindy Finn, Laurie Fox, Linton Garner (from 7:45), Stephanie Hault (PASA), Brett Hillgartner, Carollynn Jones (PTU), Robin Keough (to 9:22), Franca Kesic (WIAIH), Christine McLean, Daniel Olivenstein, Kiley Philp, Allison Provost (IASS), Barbara Schnider (from 8:24), Ruth Schwarcz (Professionals), Douglas Stewart (PASA) (to 9:33), David Szabo (from 7:25, to 9:40)

Regrets: Christopher Fuzessy, Jennifer DiMarco

Absent: Carrie Gross (Alternate: Professionals), Donnalynn Rainey

Observers: Dahlia Szabo(from 7:25, to 9:40), Danny Williams

Recording Secretary: Andrew Graham

The meeting was called to order by Sandra Buckingham at 7:03pm.

1.0 Introductions

Members of the SNAC introduced themselves to the committee and related their experiences.

2.0 Confirmation of Quorum: establish voting rights to Alternate members as required

(SNAC1314-10.1) It was confirmed that quorum had been established and that Brett Hillgartner was assigned voting rights in Jennifer DiMarco's absence. Robin Keough was given voting rights prior to Barbara Schnider's arrival.

3.0 Additions to Agenda

3.1 Approval of Agenda

(SNAC1314-10.2) It was moved by Kiley Philp to approve the agenda with item 6 being addressed before item 5, and with the addition of item 7.2 Privacy Issues. The motion was seconded by Brett Hillgartner and unanimously resolved.

4.0 Corrections to Minutes of September 18th, 2013 [AGA and Meeting]

4.1 Approval of Minutes of September 18th, 2013

The minutes were included in the kit with the AGA minutes as the first page of the minutes. It was noted that Allison Provost had sent regrets for the meeting, and that the names Carollynn Jones and Ruth Schwarcz were incorrectly

spelled. An additional amendment clarified that some IEP kits had already been distributed and that the remainder were to be distributed within the week.

(SNAC1314-10.3) It was moved by Kiley Philp to approve the minutes with the proposed changes. The motion was seconded by Robin Keough and unanimously resolved.

At this point, the meeting proceeded with item 6.0 of the agenda.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 SNAC Budget Review 2013-2014

A report for the 2012-2013 year was included in the kit, showing that 5,604 dollars of the 5,612 dollar budget were used, with 4808 being spent on the IEP project. The proposed budget for 2013-2014 uses the allocation of 1000\$ and currently leaves 373\$ unused. Alternative sources of funding, such as grant requests to the PEF, were discussed.

Barbara Schnider arrived at 8:24pm.

5.2 IEP Resource Kit Project: Update and Feedback

The IEP Resource Kit announcement made it into two local publications as well as the Pearson News and Board website. In all, 3750 IEP folder kits were printed for the project. Lindsay Place had not received the kits yet and e-mails were received from BHS and St. John Fisher the week prior to the SNAC meeting stating that they had not received the IEP kits either. Some feedback was received about split families requesting a second copy and principals requesting digital documentation to be able to reprint the information as necessary. Methods to gather feedback were discussed, with SNAC Chat being considered as a venue to promote the SNAC, the website and communication via email.

5.3 Special Needs Policy Update

The Special Needs Policy update was discussed under item 6.2

The meeting then proceeded to item 7 of the agenda.

6.0 Reports

It was requested that all reports be submitted in advance, in writing, to allow quicker more in depth discussions at the meeting.

6.1 Administration

Cindy Finn submitted a report which was included in the kit. The report detailed several typical start-up activities and workshops to be held. Parents were reminded that October 4th would be a pedagogical day for High School IEP development.

6.2 Council of Commissioners

Daniel Olivenstein provided a written report of the Council of Commissioners meeting held September 30th. Daniel Olivenstein highlighted the fact that there were significant improvements in the MELS exams, and that the final draft of the Special Needs Policy was approved. Members of SNAC were thanked for their input during the consultation process. Other points of interest included the

selection of option 3 for the calendar, the enrollment criteria consultation and the board stance on the Charter of Values.

David and Dahlia Szabo arrived at 7:25pm.

6.3 Central Parents' Committee

Two reports were included in the kit: one for the meeting held September 17th, and one for the AGM. The Central Parents' Committee hosted the AGM on October 1st, and will be holding its first meeting on October 3rd. Sandra Buckingham gave a brief description of the committee and the elected roles which have been filled. It was mentioned that the CPC will not be hosting a Parent Conference in the spring of 2014; therefore the SNAC will not be able to use this venue to promote support for special needs within the LBPSB community.

6.4 Education Committee

The Education Committee report was in the kit. The improvement in exam results was the main highlight. The next meeting will be held October 7th.

6.5 P.T.U.

Carolynn Jones gave a verbal report of the Pearson Teachers' Union (PTU) meeting. The last meeting was an AGM. At the meeting, they looked at the new teachers' agreement and agreed to the proposal.

6.6 P.A.S.A.

October 1st was a full management meeting. No decisions relevant to SNAC were made at the meeting. In response to an inquiry, it was explained that the Pearson Association of School Administrators (PASA) represents all of the school administrators.

Linton Garner arrived at 7:45pm.

6.7 Professionals

Ruth Schwarcz gave a verbal report to the committee. In the report she spoke about the technology grants and their implementation as well as various orientations, symposiums and peace summits being held. A flyer for the play Dreaming of Autism was also brought to the meeting.

6.8 I.A.S.S.

The Independent Association of Support Staff (IASS) currently has 343 posts, of which 76 were filled at the priority staffing.

6.9 Treasurer's Report

The budget was discussed under item 5.1 of the agenda.

6.10 Website Administrator's Report

Jennifer DiMarco sent her regrets for the SNAC meeting, but provided information to the SNAC. Since June 2013 there have been 2796 hits on the SNAC website, with 194 people viewing Cindy Finn's presentation. Additionally, 6 emails were received. Two emails were discussed at the meeting.

6.11 Workshops Attended

Sandra Buckingham explained that SNAC members are often provided funds to attend workshops with the intention of providing a report to the committee to share the knowledge gained at the workshop.

Two workshops were cited as being of particular interest to the SNAC: a webcast called The Changing Course of Autism, and a conference about the current trends in autism. Both Brett Hillgartner and Jennifer DiMarco have expressed an interest in attending the current trends in autism conference. Only one candidate will be sent due to registration costs. **(SNAC1314-10.4)** It was moved by Allison Provost to allocate 275\$ for the registration fee; the representative will be confirmed at a later date. The motion was seconded by Robin Keough and unanimously resolved.

The meeting then resumed with item 5 of the agenda.

7.0 New Business

7.1 SNAC Annual Report 2012/13: Review Recommendations ; Discuss Priority Projects

The report and recommendations were sent out via email. It was noted that the October and January meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, not the third Wednesday.

The recommendations were reviewed and discussed in brief at the meeting. Potential projects for the year included: dealing with stress; how to advocate for your kids; SNACChat; follow ups on the Special Needs Policy; a letter to MELS about the under-funding of school boards; the sensory breaks and brain gym programs; and a pamphlet at registration.

During discussions, Robin Keough, Douglas Stewart, and Dahlia & David Szabo had to leave at 9:22, 9:33 and 9:40 respectively.

7.2 Privacy Issues

Normally, the names of SNAC members are posted on the SNAC website and in the SNAC minutes. Sandra Buckingham asked the members of SNAC if they may continue to post the information. There were no objections, however it was noted that members not present would be contacted by e-mail to confirm their permission.

8.0 Correspondence

8.1 Changing the Course of Autism – WEBCAST: October 24+25, 2013

<http://autismcanada.ca/>

This piece of correspondence was discussed under item 6.11

8.2 Current trends in Autism, Conference, Nov 5+6, 2013; Temple Grandin and others; <http://www.goldlearningcentre.com/Current-Trends-in-Autism-Conference-e202/>

This piece of correspondence was discussed under item 6.11

8.3 Light A Dream Casino Night Poster

The Light a Dream foundation was described in brief, and its advertisement was included to help promote their fundraising event, a Casino and Auction Night: to be held November 15.

8.4 **“Dreaming in Autism”**, a play to be presented at Selwyn House on Oct 22

9.0 Varia

Nil.

10.0 Questions from the Public

Nil.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm. The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday October 23rd, 2013 in room 219/221 of 1925 Brookdale.