	<p><b>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees</b>  <b>From SNAC Meeting October 23, 2013</b>  <b>Page 1 of 2</b></p>
---	--

**IEP Resource Kit Project:** Feedback received thus far from parents, resource teachers and integration aides has been positive. Parents have expressed that the kits provided very helpful information. It was discussed that there had been some initial confusion at some schools regarding when the kits should be distributed, and whether they should be distributed to only students with MELS codes or all students with IEPs, but it has been confirmed that all students on IEPs should have received one by now. Additional kits were issued to two schools which did not receive enough for all families. Only about 100 printed kits remain, so Administrators are encouraged to refer additional families to the SNAC website to view the digital versions of the files (which may be printed): <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/IEP-Documents/page.asp>

**Parent Workshops:**

- 1) SNAC members discussed a number of topic options for a parent workshop to be offered in the Spring. More information will be forthcoming at the next meeting.
- 2) SNAC is encouraging LBPSB parents of children with special needs to attend a free seminar offered by the ASD Center of Excellence November 26, 2013, 7:00-9:00pm: [“And We Call Him Joe: A Family’s Journey Living With a Child With Special Needs”](#). This seminar is present by Joe Hunt, and his mom Maureen, and will provide helpful hints that may be useful to families with various special needs.


Please pre-register with Janet Neville by email [jneville@lbpsb.qc.ca](mailto:jneville@lbpsb.qc.ca) or call 514-422-3000 ext 3254

**SNAC Awareness Campaign: SNAC Chat Newsletter (October 2013):** As part of an ongoing effort to increase the visibility of SNAC so that more parents of children with special needs are aware of the support services that we offer, the [October edition of the SNAC Chat Newsletter](#) was finalised. It will be sent to Pearson News, as well as to Administrators for distribution to parents at all schools.

**Update/Discussion: Educating Students with Special Needs in Quebec:** Cindy Finn revisited some of the information from her previous presentation [see archived [webcast](#) on the SNAC website], and confirmed that the latest statistics regarding the incidence and types of special needs students within LBPSB remains stable at approximately 12% of the overall population, if not increasing in certain areas. This is despite an overall decline in student enrollment, thus emphasizing the financial and resource burden on the school board. In addition, it was noted that the complexity of cases is increasing, with more students exhibiting multiple codes. This is problematic, since MELS only provides funding for one “dominant” code, even for more complex cases that require additional support. It was also discussed that certain outside facilities, such as Summit school, are allocated more funding than LBPSB, supposedly due to the fact that they provide additional services such as physiotherapy.

**Council Report:** Commissioners Daniel Olivenstein and Linton Garner were advised that SNAC would like to be included on the Enrollment Criteria Consultation. This item will be discussed at the next SNAC meeting.

**Education Report:** A written report was provided by the SNAC representative to Education Committee summarizing the meeting held on October 7<sup>th</sup>. It was noted that this year Council will be updating the Policy on Evaluation of Learning and the Policy on Home Schooling. In addition, MELS has mandated a new policy on the arts “Policy on Culture and Education”. Horizon High School was discussed, which is an alternative high school program located in our board which currently houses students from grade 8-11. These students would typically start Secondary 1 at a regular high school and somewhere along the line would be recommended to attend Horizon. These students may have mixed profiles but the end goal is to try to make an impact on them as much as possible so that they can achieve success and get as close to a high school leaving certificate as possible.

 <p><b>SNAC</b> <b>Special Needs</b> <b>Advisory Committee</b></p>	<p><b>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees</b> <b>From SNAC Meeting October 23, 2013</b> <b>Page 2 of 2</b></p>
---	--

**Professionals Report:** Ruth Schwarcz, LBPSB Special Needs Consultant, informed the group that orientation sessions have taken place for new Integration Aides. Additional IA positions are available, so an initial applicant screening process has taken place with SSD professionals. Professional Development sessions took place on SLP assistive technology for reading and writing (iPad apps, Google Read & Write and Kurtzweil) as well as on a new system of data entry for students following adapted/modified programs. The ASD Center of Excellence has added a Twitter feed on their webpage.

**IASS Report:** Allison Provost and Cindy Finn noted that additional Integration Aide hours were allocated to certain schools this month, in an attempt to meet additional support demands.

**Next Meeting:** The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7pm at the school board.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Buckingham  
Chairperson, Special Needs Advisory Committee 2013-2014