



Special Needs Advisory Committee
Lester B. Pearson School Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – FEBRUARY 19TH, 2014

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

In Attendance: Sandra Buckingham, Marie-Eve Claude, Jennifer DiMarco, Cindy Finn, Christopher Fuzessy, Linton Garner, Stephanie Héroult (PASA), Carollynn Jones (PTU), Robin Keough (from 7:23), Daniel Olivenstein, Kiley Philp, Donnalynn Rainey, Barbara Schneider, Ruth Schwarcz (Professionals),

Regrets: Brett Hillgartner, Franca Kesic (WIAIH), Christine McLean, Allison Provost (IASS), Douglas Stewart (PASA), David Szabo

Observers: Edward Milczarek, Shannon Bird-Roberts, Juan Carlos Cruz

Recording Secretary: Andrew Graham

1.0 Special Presentations:

1.1 “Educational Technology within LBPSB”, presented by Director of Education Services, M. Cechile

Michael Cechile presented information about educational technology within LBPSB and answered questions from the committee. Since 2011, a variety of technology device trials have taken place in a growing number of LBPSB schools, including MACBooks, IPADs, Chromebook, Samsung Android and BYOD (Bring Your Own Device). Each approach provides its own pros and cons, but flexibility of device is seen as a key requirement. A MELS grant began last year to allow each school to purchase educational software (\$2.5K for each Elementary, \$5K for each High School). The ESD department provides equipment on loan to schools who would like to “try before they buy”. ESD provides ongoing professional development to teachers on the subject of technology and every school has a Digital Citizenship Representative.

1.2 “Educational Technology for Students with Special Needs”, presented by Assistant Director of Student Service, C. Fuzessy, and SSD Coordinator M.E. Claude

Chris Fuzessy presented information about education technology for students with special needs. Marie-Eve Claude, Cindy Finn and Chris Fuzessy then answered questions from the committee. It was noted that the MELS provides an annual grant of \$150K to purchase technology (hardware and software) for students with Special Needs. A subcommittee of 20 SSD professionals meets every 6 weeks to review and prioritize requests, and purchase accordingly. Technology discussions are also a standing item on local school Resource Team meeting agendas. In 2012-2013, the grant enabled the purchase of 150 iPADs, 120 laptops, 150 assistive software licenses and 600 additional software programs.

Robin Keough arrived at 7:21pm, during the first presentation.

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

It was confirmed that quorum had been established and the meeting was called to order by Sandra Buckingham at 8:28 pm. Robin Keough was assigned voting rights for the evening.

3.0 Additions to Agenda

3.1 Approval of Agenda

(SNAC1314-2.1) It was moved by Barbara Schnider to approve the agenda with corrections to the numbering from item 4.0 through the subsequent items, the addition of 4 items under *Correspondence* and the addition of item *9.1 April Meeting Date* under *Varia*. The motion was seconded by Jennifer DiMarco and unanimously resolved.

4.0 Corrections to Minutes of January 22nd, 2014

4.1 Approval of Minutes of January 22nd, 2014

The minutes were included in the kit. **(SNAC1314-2.2)** It was moved by Jennifer DiMarco to approve the minutes with a correction to read November 20th rather than October 20th for item 4.1. The motion was seconded by Robin Keough and unanimously resolved.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 SNAC Awareness Campaign: SNAC Chat: (see page 4 below); new distribution strategies? <http://lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/pearsonnews/pdf/Pearson-News-Volume-XVI-No-6.pdf>

The SNAC Chat was included in the January edition of the Pearson News.

5.2 Update: SNAC Funding request to Council of Commissioners (Letter sent)

The letter requesting additional funding has been sent to Council. No response has been received as there has not been a Council meeting since the last SNAC meeting.

5.3 Update: Dealing with flight risk concerns for students with Special Needs (Letter sent)

A letter requesting that fire drills include a verification of alarmed exits has been sent to the Emergency Preparedness Policy subcommittee, but no response has been received.

5.4 Update: SNAC Workshop for Parents: Thursday, Feb 13th: (Feedback/suggestions for future)

The 'Kids that Wiggle and Jiggle' workshop was held on February 13th with forty-six participants from twenty-one schools. Jim Hendry recorded the event, and has prepared an archive to be made available online once a logo and counter are added.

Eighteen attendees completed the survey, and overall responses were positive. A summary of the responses was included in the kit. Sandra Buckingham

provided additional insight interpreting the results; however, no specific theme emerged for future workshops.

It was suggested that additional discussion regarding strategies and Q & A would have been more practical than the role playing portion. In order to keep consultants on point, it was recommended to allow questions ahead of time through the registration process. In addition, it was noted that the majority of attendees had been informed about this event by their schools (via email, hard copy in schoolbag or via a teacher). Thus, it was suggested that advertising for Parent Events is most successful when invitations are distributed via the schools, versus other methods.

At this point the meeting jumped to item 5.6.

5.5 “Budget” Consultation (Response due March 29)

http://lbpsb.qc.ca/content/consultations/budgetconsultation2013_2014/2013-2014%20Budget%20Consultation%20Short%20Form.pdf

SNAC’s previous response for 2013-2014:

http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/58SNACBudgetConsultationResponse2013-2014_Final.pdf

Additional input was received regarding the budget consultation response. The total response now includes three pages of feedback. Additional discussions about the work oriented training path (WOTP), training for teachers, transition to high school workshops and the ombudsman report ensued. It was suggested that SNAC could benefit from receiving additional information about concerns that have been brought forth to the Ombudsman by families of Students with Special Needs, so that the committee can be aware of the concerns within the Special Needs community. The feedback will be drafted into a response by Sandra Buckingham to be discussed and approved at the next meeting.

Donnalynn Rainey left at 9:03, during discussions.

5.6 “Art & Culture in Education” Consultation (Response due March 21):

http://lbpsb.qc.ca/content/consultations/Arts_Culture_Policy_Consultation_Document_Dec_16_2013.pdf

There was some feedback received regarding the Art & Culture in Education consultation. Generally, people were in favor of the policy, but it was suggested to add in a note under ‘objectives’ or ‘roles and responsibilities’ to ensure that children with special needs are included to the fullest extent possible. It was also recommended to include a parent representative in the formation of the ESD Arts & Culture committee. The feedback will be drafted into a response by Sandra Buckingham to be discussed and approved at the next meeting.

At this point the meeting resumed with item 5.5.

6.0 Reports

6.1 Administration

The administration report was included in the kit.

6.2 Council of Commissioners

The council of commissioners’ report was included in the kit. It was noted that the transportation policy consultation is not available on the board website.

6.3 Central Parents' Committee

A report from the CPC was included in the kit.

6.4 Education Committee

No report was available for the kit.

6.5 P.T.U.

A report for the P.T.U. was included in the kit and discussed briefly during discussions of the budget consultation (item 5.5).

6.6 P.A.S.A.

No report was available for the kit as the PTU met on January 22nd and Doug Stewart was unable to attend.

6.7 Professionals

The Professionals' report was included in the kit.

6.8 I.A.S.S.

The Independent Association of Support Staff (IASS) report was included in the kit. Highlights from the report included the various workshops attended February 7th, and that the IASS is a member of the newly formed Health and Safety committee.

6.9 Treasurer's Report

The expenses incurred from the Kids that Jiggle and Wiggle workshop totaled 57.20\$. After expected expenses are incurred, there will be 315.97\$ remaining.

6.10 Website Administrator's Report

Jennifer DiMarco provided information about the number of main page hits [1057 in Feb], webcast views [47 in Feb] and emails [11 in Jan, 50 in Feb]. RSVPs for events were received through email in February, so a slowdown period is now expected.

6.11 Workshops Attended

Nil.

7.0 New Business

7.1 "Student Transportation Policy" Consultation (Response due April 28): (no link yet on LBPSB website – see attached file)

The student transportation policy consultation was tabled to March to allow time for the consultation to be made available on the board's website.

8.0 Correspondence

8.1 A soft copy of Autism Spectrum Disorders Network News was included in the kit.

8.2 EMSB is hosting a *Transitioning towards Independence* workshop. It is free, but participants must register.

8.3 On March 30th, there will be an Advancing with Autism event at the Crown Plaza. The cost to attend the speaker sessions is twenty-five dollars per person. Brett

Hillgartner, Robin Keough and Barbara Schnider expressed interest in attending the event. **(SNAC1314-2.3)** It was moved by Jennifer DiMarco to allocate 75\$ to allow them to attend the speaker portion of the event. The motion was seconded by Kiley Philp and unanimously resolved.

- 8.4** The Pearson Education Foundation (PEF) newsletter was received, and will be sent out in soft copy after the meeting. Information about fundraising through the sales of greeting cards and Montreal Impact soccer tickets via their online store was provided. It was noted that there are t-shirts available for five dollars which are not on the website.

9.0 Varia

- 9.1** The meeting scheduled for April 16th conflicts with a family commitment for Sandra Buckingham. Barbara Schnider and Cindy Finn also expressed conflicts for that date. **(SNAC1314-2.4)** As there were no conflicts noted for April 23rd, it was moved by Jennifer DiMarco to change the scheduled date to April 23rd. The motion was seconded by Robin Keough and unanimously resolved.

10.0 Questions from the Public

Nil.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Sandra Buckingham at 9:35 pm. The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday March 19th, 2014 in room 219/221 of 1925 Brookdale.