

	<p align="center"><b>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees</b>  <b>From SNAC Meeting February 19, 2014</b>  <b>Page 1 of 2</b></p>
---	--

**Special Presentation: “Educational Technology within LBPSB”**, presented by Director of Education Services, M. Chechile: Michael Chechile presented information about educational technology within LBPSB. 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.

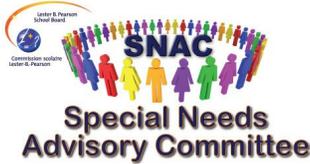
**Special Presentation: “Educational Technology for Students with Special Needs”**, presented by Assistant Director of Student Services, C. Fuzessy, and SSD Coordinator M.E. Claude: Chris Fuzessy presented information about education technology for students with special needs. It was noted that the MELS 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.

**SNAC Parent Workshop:** SNAC hosted a free seminar on February 13, 2014 in the main boardroom at the LBPSB head office. It was open to all parents of students with special needs at the school board and was entitled: “**Kids that Jiggle and Wiggle: Strategies for Students with Challenging Behaviours**”. Consultants Pamela Normandin, Celina Berube and Sue-Anne Ross from SSD presented. Forty-six participants from 21 schools attended. A feedback survey was made available and responses were positive. It was noted in the Survey results 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 (such as the SNAC website, SNAC email list or LBPSB website). The presentation was recorded and archived, and is available for viewing on the SNAC website under “Webcasts”:  
<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/webcasts/page.asp>

**SNAC Awareness Campaign—SNAC Chat Newsletter (February 2014):** As part of an ongoing effort to increase the visibility of SNAC, so that more parents of children with special needs are aware of SNAC’s role and the support that we offer, the February edition of the SNAC Chat Newsletter was published in Pearson News: <http://lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/pearsonnews/pdf/Pearson-News-Volume-XVI-No-6.pdf> However, it was noted that the newsletter does not appear to be distributed within most schools.

**SNAC Funding:** A letter requesting an increase in funding for SNAC’s operational budget for the 2013-2014 school year was sent to the Council of Commissioners on February 3, 2014. No response has been received. As of the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, SNAC’s remaining budget for the year stands at just over \$200, with much of the year still to go, and additional attendance fees for Conferences of interest to the Special Needs community still to come.

**Update - Dealing with Flight Risk Concerns for Students with Special Needs:** SNAC sent a letter on February 3, 2014 to the Emergency Preparedness Policy sub-committee requesting that the standard fire-drill policy in all LBPSB schools includes verification that alarms on exit doors are set and functioning at all times, so that staff will be alerted if a student attempts to exit during school hours. No response has been received.



**“Budget” Consultation**: Discussions ensued regarding the work oriented training path (WOTP), training for teachers, transition to high school workshops and the Ombudsman report. 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 (ensuring no names are provided for confidentiality purposes). In this way, the SNAC committee can be made aware of the concerns within the Special Needs community, and better fulfill its mandate as an advisory body. Additional feedback will be added to SNAC’s response and will be approved at the March meeting.

**“Art & Culture in Education” Consultation** Generally, members 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 in Arts and Culture outings and activities to the fullest extent possible. It was also recommended to include a parent representative in the formation of the ESD Arts & Culture committee, perhaps a CPC member. Additional feedback will be added to SNAC’s response and will be approved at the March meeting.

**Website Administrator’s Report**: It was reported that the SNAC website continues to receive a good amount of traffic. February hits [1057] and emails [53] were higher than usual, likely due to the parent workshop.

**Meeting Date Change**: As there were conflicts for the scheduled April meeting date, members approved a meeting date change to April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Correspondence**:

- The Autism Center of Excellence has published an excellent newsletter discussing Bullying of students with Special Needs: [http://coeasd.lbpsb.qc.ca/newsletters/2014\\_01.pdf](http://coeasd.lbpsb.qc.ca/newsletters/2014_01.pdf)
- The English Montreal School Board is offering a FREE Resource Fair March 13, 2014: “Transitioning Toward Independence”. Registration is required. [http://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb\\_en/media\\_en/inspirations/pdf\\_en/Resource-Fair-8.pdf](http://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb_en/media_en/inspirations/pdf_en/Resource-Fair-8.pdf)
- “Advancing with Autism” conference and workshops on March 30, 2014. Cost is \$25. 3 SNAC members will attend. <http://www.mtlautisminmotion.com/>
- The LBPSB Pearson Education Foundation (PEF) is selling greeting cards created by the students with Special Needs who are members of the LIFE program. Additional fundraisers include T-shirts, and tickets to an Impact Soccer game. Purchases can be made online at the PEF website <http://pef.lbpsb.qc.ca/> or at the PEF store at the LBPSB main office.

**Next Meeting**: The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7pm at the school board.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Schnider, Vice Chairperson  
Sandra Buckingham, Chairperson  
Special Needs Advisory Committee 2013-2014