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“Budget” Consultation: SNAC reviewed and approved a response for the 2014/2015 Budget Consultation. It was decided that the recommendations from previous years’ Budget Consultations remain valid. There were, however, additions to this year’s Budget Consultation document which include the following points:

- Better communication with parents of students with special needs prior to periods of transition such as high school, as well as establishing a meeting with the classroom teacher and Resource team prior to the start of every school year.
- Provide detailed information on the appropriate student profiles for access to special programs such as REACH, LIFE and WOTP (Work Oriented Training Path) on the LBPSB website.
- Increase the number of special needs professionals (i.e. Speech Therapists and Occupational Therapists) to meet the ever-growing needs and decrease the current wait-list times for evaluations.
- Increase the SNAC’s yearly operating budget from \$1000 to \$3500 so that SNAC is better positioned to service our parent community with tools to help them to cope with daily challenges (workshops, improved communications, etc.), as well as enable members of the committee to attend local events and workshops of importance to the special needs community.
- Have the Ombudsman report to SNAC on an annual basis all the concerns that have been brought to the Ombudsman’s attention relating to students with special needs so that SNAC is made aware of all concerns of the special needs community and can better fulfill its mandate as an Advisory body.

“Art & Culture in Education” Consultation: SNAC members were generally in favor of the policy, however some recommendations were made to ensure that the special needs community is fully represented. In the “Objectives” and “Roles and Responsibilities” sections it was requested by SNAC that students with special needs are included to the fullest extent possible in Art and Culture related activities, including extracurricular activities and field trips, and that their needs are taken into consideration by school staff and the Governing Board when planning for such activities (i.e. aide resources or special busing). It was also recommended to include a parent representative in the formation of the ESD Arts and Culture Committee to provide the parents’ perspective, perhaps a member from the Central Parent’s Committee.

Council Report: The International Vocational Centre – downtown campus is fully operational. It is a very popular program catering to adult foreign students and it brings much-needed funding to the school board.

PTU Report: The oversized class grievance will be discussed through an intermediary in the next two weeks. A suggestion was made to replace the April 7th election day by taking back the June 23rd pedagogical day. Nominations will also be accepted for all positions in the PTU, as they are elected for two year terms.

Professionals Report: In February there was screening for additional Integration Aide candidates since there is a continual need to hire and train new aides due to ever-growing demands. In March the Tech Team met to review orders and place new technology orders for special needs students.

New Business—“Student Transportation” Consultation: SNAC will be preparing a response for the “Student Transportation” consultation which is due April 28, 2014. As it stands, transportation services that are currently provided by the school board to students with special needs are not referenced in the policy, so SNAC will be making recommendations on how to include issues related to the special needs community.

 <p>The logo for the Special Needs Advisory Committee (SNAC) features a group of colorful human figures in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) standing in a line. Above them, the acronym 'SNAC' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the figures, the text 'Special Needs Advisory Committee' is written in a smaller, black font. To the left of the figures, there is a small circular logo with the text 'Lester B. Pearson School Board' and 'Commission scolaire Lester B. Pearson'.</p>	<p>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees From SNAC Meeting March 19, 2014 Page 2 of 2</p>
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Questions from the Public:

- 1) In response to an email request to SNAC, it was discussed that the REACH program does in fact fall under the umbrella of the LBPSB Policy “Students with Special Needs: Policy on the Organization of Services”. As such, parents should expect a minimum of 10 IEP contacts per year. However it was noted that a description of the program is not currently provided on the LBPSB website.
- 2) In response to a question from a parent, it was noted that MELS does not currently require formal Sexual Education classes as part of the curriculum. It was discussed that in the case of students with special needs, whom in some cases may exhibit delays in comprehension of social and/or physical developmental issues, it may be beneficial to introduce this subject at the High School level. It was noted that the Student Services Department currently offers and can provide support/teaching materials on the subject of sexual education to school Resource teams on demand.

Upcoming Events of Interest: It was noted that there are several upcoming events of special interest to the special needs community. These include:

- 1) “Advancing with Autism” conference and workshops on March 30, 2014. Cost is \$25. 3 SNAC members will attend. <http://www.mtlautisminmotion.com/>
- 2) LBPSB ASD Center of Excellence presentation “Why Is He Doing That? Understanding Challenging Behaviours as the First Step to Developing Appropriate Interventions” on April 1st. <http://coeasd.lbpsb.qc.ca/documents1314/LectureSeries0414.pdf>
- 3) Parent Evening offered by the Institute for Neurocognitive Initiatives: A Positive Approach to Challenging Children: An Evening of Introduction to the Program with Dr. Ross Greene. May 8, 2014 <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e8wx43n050e7ebb9&llr=8mu7gtpab>
- 4) EMSB free workshop (registration required): “How to Teach Appropriate Sexual Behaviours to Students with ASD”, with Dr. Isabelle Henault, Psychologist, April 22, 2014 http://www.emsb.qc.ca/emsb_en/pdf_en/parents_en/2014-03-14-MEMO%20Workshop%20for%20Parents%20-%203.pdf

Next Meeting: The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at 7pm at the school board.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Hillgartner, Secretary
Sandra Buckingham, Chairperson
Special Needs Advisory Committee 2013-2014