

	<p>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees From SNAC Meeting January 22, 2014 Page 1 of 2</p>
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Special Presentation to SNAC—“The LBPSB Budget Allocation Process”: Assistant Director General Carol Heffernan spoke to SNAC about the school board budgeting process, with a particular emphasis on funding for students with special needs. The school board receives its funding from MELS: \$4,000 for a regular student, \$10,000 for a mildly handicapped student and \$16,000 for a severely handicapped student. However, a significant challenge is the “Recurring Negative Adjustments” from MELS: the school board budget has been cut by approximately \$8.5 million since 1998. The school board significantly supplements the amounts received from MELS for Students with Special Needs every year, in order to provide the current level of service that is offered in LBPSB schools. SNAC will work with Ms. Heffernan to create a brief budget summary/chart to be posted on the SNAC website in the coming months.

SNAC Parent Workshop: SNAC will be offering a free seminar, open to all parents of students with special needs, at the school board on **Thursday, February 13, 2014: “Kids that Jiggle and Wiggle: Strategies for Students with Challenging Behaviours”**. Topics will include understanding gender differences in behaviour and ADHD, as well as tips to promote success. Please see the event flyer for additional information: <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/87SpecialNeedsSpecialEvent13Feb2014.pdf> .

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 finalised <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/89SNACChatNewsletterFebruary2014.pdf>

There was a discussion about how to best distribute the newsletter and the following suggestions were made:

- Reminders will be made at the regional level to encourage Administrators to share the SNAC Chat Newsletters with parents at all schools.
- Have the newsletters coincide with the 4 reporting periods and have them sent home with the report cards.
- Invite interested parents to register on the website for an opt-in mailing list so they can have the newsletter delivered electronically.

SNAC Funding: SNAC previously submitted a letter to LBPSB Administration requesting an increase in funding for SNAC’s operational budget from \$1,000 to \$1,800 for the 2013-2014 school year. Administration denied the request, and indicated that this decision lies with the Council of Commissioners who voted on the budget allocation to SNAC. Thus, SNAC will draft another letter to the Council of Commissioners, to re-iterate the request for a budget increase that was already made in last year’s Budget Consultation Response.

Follow-up on Discussion Topic—Dealing with Flight Risk Concerns for Students with Special Needs: Due to a recent incident at an elementary school wherein a non-verbal student with Special Needs went missing for a period of time after exiting the school via an emergency door without a functioning alarm, SNAC discussed the topic of flight risks and wandering and how our schools may improve preventative measures. As a follow-up SNAC learned that a sub-committee was established to review the school board’s “Emergency Preparedness Policy”. SNAC will write a letter to the 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.

“Budget” Consultation and “Art & Culture in Education” Consultation: SNAC members were introduced to these policies, and will discuss these two consultations during its next meeting. Responses for both are both due in March 2014.

 <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 'Commissioner of Education'.</p>	<p>SNAC Report to CPC and Education Committees From SNAC Meeting January 22, 2014 Page 2 of 2</p>
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Website Administrator’s Report: The SNAC website continues to help spread SNAC news and information to the LBPSB special needs community. In the past two months, there were over 1100 hits on the SNAC website. In December 2013 there were 5 emails to SNAC requesting assistance. In January 2014 (prior to the Jan 22 SNAC meeting) there were 17 emails to SNAC with special-needs related inquiries.

Administration Report: The school board is in the final stages of validating the MELS identification (coding) for students declared as having had a “handicap” in 2013-14. Results from MELS will be given to the school board in March. This year, over 200 new cases of Students with “handicaps” were declared by LBPSB to MELS as of September 30th.

Council Report: Commissioner Daniel Olivenstein confirmed that the two new parent commissioners are Laura Derry and Alexander Perlemeter. New elections to elect 12 school commissioners will take place in November 2014. The LBPSB Annual Report 2012-2013 is now available on the LBPSB website: (http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/content/annual_report/Annual_Report_2012_2013.pdf). Pages 18 and 19 of this report deal specifically with the LBPSB strategic plan for students with special needs, which encourages them to follow a work-oriented training path (WOTP). In addition, a new Students Ombudsman has been appointed. The Annual Ombudsman report regarding Requests for Reconsideration may be found in the Annual Report. The LBPSB Complaint Procedure may be found on the LBPSB website: <http://lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/altpages/indexV2.asp?altpage=ombudsman>

Professionals Report: The S.N. professionals team provides ongoing support and training to schools throughout LBPSB on a regular basis. In January, workshops were given on “IEPs: Adaptation/Modifications” for regular schools and the “TEVA Report card and IEP” for the Alternative programs. 14 presentations/workshops will be offered to Integration Aides during the Feb 7th PED day on a variety of subjects, including Self-regulation strategies, assistive technologies, conflict resolution, and more.

PTU Report: The Pearson Teacher’s Union is in the process of sending a Survey to all teachers, to request feedback in order to plan for the upcoming contract negotiations.

Presentation Report—“And We Call Him Joe”: A SNAC parent member attended the LBPSB ASD Centre of Excellence presentation of November 26, 2013 “And We Call Him Joe: A Family’s Journey Living With A Child With Special Needs”. Joe and Maureen Hunt spoke candidly about his educational experiences from kindergarten through university, with the intent of increasing awareness and acceptance for students with special needs.

Referral Process with Third Party Alternative Schools: In response to a question from a parent visitor, it was confirmed that LBPSB has an Entente in place with Peter Hall and Summit schools, but not with Vanguard. Thus, LBPSB is not directly involved in the student referral process with Vanguard.

Next Meeting: The next SNAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 7pm at the school board. This meeting will include a special presentation regarding the **use of educational technology for students with special needs** (software, hardware, etc.) within LBPSB.

Respectfully submitted,

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