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SNAC Communications—AGM Posters and SNAC Chat Newsletter: SNAC printed posters to advertise SNAC and its AGM that will take place on September 17, 2014, 7pm, at the School Board. Two posters per school will be distributed by Student Services and should be posted at the schools in June and remain there over the summer to inform new parents in September. PDF versions of the posters will be provided to Administrators for distribution to their parent population.

The June 2014 SNAC Chat Newsletter was finalized and a request was made to include SNAC Chat in the June edition of Pearson News. The PASA reps were requested to remind in-school Administrators to include it with their June newsletters. In addition, SNAC Chat will be distributed via the CPC and Parent Committee Network.


SNAC Annual Report 2013-2014: The SNAC Annual Report for this school year is currently being drafted. The committee members discussed a list of “Recommendations for the 2014-2015 SNAC Committee”, that outlines some of the recommended projects for SNAC to consider working on next year. Some of the recommendations include:

- Work with LBPSB Administration and Council of Commissioners to establish a clear mandate for the new elected position of Special Needs Parent Commissioner.
- Strive to be a strong voice at the school board to represent the concerns of the Special Needs community, by ensuring that SNAC parent representation is maintained or added on various board-level committees and key meetings.
- Market and promote SNAC to attract new parent members and increase awareness of the work that the committee does to support parents.
- Brainstorm ways to improve consistency of communication with parents in ALL schools.

Once the document is completed, SNAC members will be asked to comment on and approve the Annual Report by email, and the final version will be posted on the SNAC website.

SNAC Constitution Review: The SNAC Constitution was reviewed and updated in consideration of the upcoming November 24th, 2014 school board elections where there will be a new position introduced: Special Needs Parent Commissioner, and the term for parent commissioners will increase from 1 year to 2 years. The SNAC members approved an increase in its parent membership from 6 to 7, to compensate for the fact that the new SNAC Parent Commissioner will be very busy and may not be able to actively participate in all SNAC projects. In addition, the section of the Constitution that outlines SNAC’s “Powers and Responsibilities” was updated to clarify SNAC’s role as per the Education Act.

SNAC Recommendations for the “Annual Update to the School Success Plan”: CPC is working on a project to offer suggested improvements to Administration regarding the template that is used to document every school’s Annual Update to the Success Plan. A subcommittee has been struck to work on this and is requesting input from all parent groups, including SNAC. SNAC members discussed and approved a document outlining the committee’s suggestions as to what specific information relating to services offered to students with special needs at each school should be included in the Annual Report, so that the parent community can be adequately informed. Some examples include listing specific data about the number of students who are “coded” versus those “at risk”, how many Support Staff and Resource Teachers offer support, as well as a discussion regarding any Alternative Programs and/or Grouped Classrooms at the school.

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“Emergency Preparedness” Consultation: There has been no response to the letter sent to the Chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee on February 3rd, 2014 in which SNAC recommended that all alarmed fire doors be tested during routine fire drills. This recommendation was originally made following an incident in which a student went missing after exiting a door with a non-functioning alarm. Thus, SNAC members approved a Response to Consultation which resubmitted this recommendation.

Presentation to the Council of Commissioners: April 28, 2014:

At the last Council of Commissioners meeting, a formal Request for Reconsideration of a Decision was put forth and put to a vote as to whether June 23rd should be kept as the last day of school. The result of the close (10 to 9) vote was to keep June 23rd as a school day. Only 48 hours prior to this meeting, the SNAC Chairperson was asked by the Chairperson of the Council of Commissioners to speak at the Caucus meeting to present the various types of planning meetings for students with special needs that take place at the end of the school year to plan for next year’s student needs. Following the presentation, the Chairperson also spoke of SNACs disappointment regarding the April 25th PTU Memo which stated that parents are not supportive of LBPSB teachers. It was clarified that parents of children with Special Needs have the utmost respect for their children’s teachers and rely on a positive relationship between parent and teacher to ensure the success of their children.

Professionals Report: The report highlighted the Peace It Together Symposium of May 16th and advised the committee that the last round of technology orders for Special Needs students has been placed for this school year (the funds have now been exhausted). LBPSB staff continues the process of conducting observation visits to daycares and preschools of special needs kids who have registered with the LBPSB for the fall of 2014.

I.A.S.S. Report: The “Toileting Guidelines Policy” is currently under review by IASS.

INSPIRATIONS Magazine: An article on LBPSB’s LIFE Program (Learning Independence through Functional Education) was published on page 29 of INSPIRATIONS Magazine. The article emphasizes how this program transitions older students to independent living.

Next Meeting: The next SNAC meeting will be the AGM and take place on Wednesday, September 17th, 2014 at 7pm at the school board.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Hillgartner, Secretary

Sandra Buckingham, Chairperson

Special Needs Advisory Committee 2013-2014