

## **SNAC (Special Needs Advisory Committee)**

What is it?

**According to the Education Act , Section 185: "Every school board shall establish an advisory committee on services for handicapped students and students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities".**

The committee is composed of:

- Parents of students concerned (parents of students with an IEP)
- Representative of teachers
- Representative of non-teaching professional staff
- Representative of support staff
- Representatives of community organizations who provide services to these students
- A school principal
- The Director General or his/her representative

The role of this committee is to:

- Advise the school board on a policy for the organization of educational services for students with special needs
- Advise on the allocation of financial resources for the provision of services intended for these students

While SNAC does not deal with individual issues, parents of children with special needs are welcome to attend the monthly meetings.

The Lester B. Pearson School Board is committed to providing schooling for all students, where each student is encouraged to maximize his/her full potential. Within this context, the Board will enable the development and implementation of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for each student with special needs as indicated in Article 235 of the Education Act. Students with special needs will normally attend a community school. Within that school they will be members of regular classes, receiving support services as indicated by their IEP.

## **IEP Parent Representative on Governing Board**

[SNAC](#) and the [Central Parents Committee](#) suggested that this new optional role be introduced, explained and decided upon at every School's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September.

This position could be created if the parents who attend your school's Annual General Meeting approve the decision.

Also, an existing Governing Board parent of a student on an IEP can nominate themselves for this position.

If approved, the role of this GB parent representative would be:

- To make decisions in the best interests of all students at the school
- Serve as a contact person for parents of students with special needs at the school
- Act as an Email Liaison to bring feedback, suggestions and ideas from your school to SNAC, and bring SNAC information to your school

Please note that while all parents of students with IEPs are most welcome to attend SNAC meetings to ask questions and provide feedback, representatives who accept this position are NOT required to attend SNAC meetings.

## **SNAC – Special Needs Advisory Committee meetings at LBPSB**

### **2015-2016 summary**

#### **Reported by IEP Parent Representative for St. John Fisher Junior**

As an IEP Parent Representative for St John Fisher Jr. and not part of SNAC, I attended these meetings as part of the “public”.

The current chairperson is Brett Hillgartner, Vice-chair Angela Berryman and Parent Commissioner/Rep to Council Sandra Buckingham.

In year 2015-2016:

- SNAC hosted Parent to Parent IEP workshops; as a follow-up an “IEP Q&A” document was created and now available on the SNAC website.
- SNAC received special presentation on alternative learning programs WOTP (work-oriented training path): which is offered at 8 LBPSB high schools
- SNAC sent the board a brief in which presented priority issues pertaining to students with special needs (inclusion, support services, special needs programs, language of instruction/community schools)
- SNAC compiled a list of recommendations to the School Board regarding Transition Plans for students with Special Needs who are affected by the Major School Change process (including a checklist)
- SNAC received presentation on “Cooking with Autonomy” a program offered by LBPSB. (to development independent cooking while learning on good nutrition)
- Discussions of Emergency Preparedness: SNAC advises that school administrators consider the specific training needs of these students when establishing their emergency preparedness procedures

Next AGM:

**Wednesday, September 14, 2016**  
at 7pm, in the LBPSB Boardroom  
1925 Brookdale Avenue, Dorval

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Maguigad