 <p>SNAC Special Needs Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Please visit our website: http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca</p> <p>Email address: snac@lbpearson.ca</p>	<p>SNAC Report to the Council of Commissioners & Parents' Committee</p> <p>From SNAC Meeting November 20, 2019 Pages 1 of 3</p>
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SNAC Parent Information Workshop - The I.E.P. Journey

On November 6, 2019 SNAC was very proud to host a parent information session on the I.E.P. journey. It was extremely well attended with over 70 parents in attendance from a variety of our elementary and high schools!

A big THANK YOU to the SNAC members and the 6 inclusive education consultants for their time, energy and dedication to make our evening a wonderful success.

We received over 100 questions and are finalizing the question and answer document.

If you missed the presentation, it can be found on our website here:


<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/webcasts/page.asp>

Elementary Schools in attendance

Allion Elementary	Beacon Hill Elementary
Beechwood Elementary	Birchwood Elementary
Christmas Park Elementary	Dorset Elementary
Edgewater Elementary	Evergreen Elementary
Forest Hill Sr Elementary	Kingsdale Academy
Lasalle Elementary Sr	Margaret Manson Elementary
Mount Pleasant Elementary	Sherbrooke Academy Jr
Sherbrooke Academy Sr	St Edmund Elementary
St John Fisher Jr	St John Fisher Sr
St Patrick Elementary	Springdale Elementary
Sunshine Academy	Terry Fox Elementary
Westpark Elementary	Wilder Penfield Elementary

High Schools in attendance

John Rennie High School	Lindsay Place High School
Macdonald High School	Pierrefonds Community High School
St. Thomas High School	Westwood Sr High School

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Bill 40

The parent committee was given a presentation on Bill 40. Lisa and Susana our parent representatives as well as our commissioners updated SNAC on the changes and how they affect the representation of students with special needs.

In the days following the meeting SNAC created and sent a letter to Minister Roberge regarding our concerns for students with special needs being under represented in Bill 40. You can find it here: <http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/extra/img/319SNACLettertoMinisterBill40Approved.pdf>


Discussion: School level support network for parents

Angela the parent commissioner for special needs receives questions from parents asking if there are local parent support networks at the school or region level where parents can come together with similar needs or concerns to support each other. She opened up the question to SNAC - How can the school board better support the creation of such a network?

Responses or concerns - For a school level network - it would be the principal who would make the determination for their school. Concerns -who would oversee it to help facilitate the communication? A staff member, a member of the administration, a SNAC member or perhaps draw on community partners to help. It is important to realize that some parents may not feel comfortable with a staff member in the room, need to create a safe space for parents to share. Is it possible to come together with neighboring schools and perhaps have guest speakers? Some members will be going back to their schools to speak with administration about this possibility. One suggestion was to collaborate with the school's home and school committee.

Discussion: I.E.P. Monthly Communications Challenges & Best Practices

Angela the parent commissioner for special needs asked how the I.E.P. communications are occurring at schools - asking for both best practices and challenges. It was shared that some schools are pre-filling in the communications for the year -which is not allowed. Some members were unaware of what constitutes a communication (in person, email, note in agenda etc.) Some schools are excellent at communication with parents while it is reported that other schools do not communicate regularly - especially in high schools. Should parents have questions or concerns they are encouraged to speak to the principal as it is their job to oversee all I.E.P.s

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Discussion: Concerns regarding the extra 20 minute recess in elementary schools

SNAC discussed the 20 minute recess and received feedback regarding the concerns schools are currently experiencing now that the first bit of Winter is upon us. One of the biggest concerns is that outdoor wear does not have time to dry between the multiple recesses so students are going out to play in wet outdoor wear. This is especially difficult for Kindergarten and Cycle 1. Students with special needs are really having a difficult time with all the transitions. Teaching time is being affected and the answer in some schools was to send home more homework. SNAC will be creating a letter to finalize and approve with all the concerns for their December meeting. Our commissioner suggested families write to the MNAs with their concerns.

Questions received this month

1. What happens on I.E.P. release days?
Response: Teachers set up meetings with other resource staff / teachers and in some cases with parents to go over assessments and create / update I.E.P.s
2. Do we know of any parent support groups available?
Response: Yes, the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped (WIAIH) offers groups. There is the coffee break daytime group offered in the morning on the first Friday of each month at 9:30am. They also offer an evening group on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm. For more information please visit www.wiaih.qc.ca
3. Are 1:1 therapy services for students requiring speech and language therapy available at the school level? The CLSC offers support until age 5, then they say services transfer to the school. Where is that written in the education act?
Response: IN K & 1 screenings are done and if a student needs an assessment it is made. Intervention is done in some cases but not on a 1:1 basis, but rather in a small group setting where they focus on one skill at a time for a set amount of weeks. For example targeted intervention focusing on clarity of speech for 6-8 weeks.

Our next SNAC meeting will be held:

Wednesday December 11, 2019 at 6:30pm at LBPSB head office, 1925 Brookdale Ave
The meeting will begin with a special presentation by the TranXition Program from Lethbridge-Layton-Mackay.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer DiMarco
Special Needs Advisory Committee - Chairperson 2019-2020