

Minutes of the first (1st) meeting of the 2014-2015 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) held on Tuesday, October 7th, 2014 Directorate Board Room at the SWLSB Administrative Centre, 235 Montée Lesage, Rosemère, Québec J7A 4Y6

Members present: Evan Caminis, Pamala Cripton, Mario Lisio, Jennifer Maccarone, Janet Sallie, Jennifer Perry, Rose Renzo, Patricia Sasso, Marianne Sassen, Yolanta Wiktorczyk, Parents; Brian Benoit, Elaine Sassen, Teachers; Naz Facchino, Peter McLaurin, Commissioners; Sébastien Joly, LTU President, Jack Fitch SEP577 President

Also present were: Fred Greschner, Assistant Director General; Silvia Patella, Assistant Director of Complementary Services

Regrets: Maria Garliaris

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Welcoming Remarks / Introductions

The committee introduced themselves.

2. Additions and Approval of the Agenda

Janet Sallie MOVED THAT the agenda is approved. Seconded by Elaine Sassen

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Minutes of meeting held May 6th, 2014

Pamala Cripton MOVED THAT the minutes of May 6th, 2014 are approved as presented. Seconded by Naz Facchino.

This motion was CARRIED on the following division

For: 6

Abstain: 10

4. New Business

4.1. Election Procedures

Jennifer explained the election procedures to members.

4.2. Nomination and Election of Chairperson

Pamala Cripton NOMINATES Jennifer Maccarone. Congratulations

4.3. Nomination and Election of Vice-Chairperson

Jennifer Maccarone NOMINATES Pamala Cripton - Congratulations

4.4. Nomination and Election of Treasurer

Rose Renza NOMINATES herself. - Congratulations

4.5. Nomination and Election of Delegates

Congratulations to the new delegates for SEAC 2014-2015 / 2015-2016, Yolanta Wiktorczyk, Maria Garliaris, Jennifer Perry, Patricia Sasso, and Rose Renzo.

There is still room for one more member, who will be Evan Caminis. He will be voted in at the next Parents Committee.

4.6. Nomination and Election of Alternate Members

There is still room for 9 alternate members, who are non-voting members unless delegates are absent.

4.7. Nomination and Election of PC Delegate

Pamala Cripton NOMINATED herself for the PC Delegate

4.8. Dates & Time of Meetings

Tabled to next meeting which will be held on November 10th at 7:00 p.m. Regular meetings will be scheduled at that time for the balance of the year.

4.9. Internal Rules of Procedure

Included in packages. Please review and bring back any recommendations or changes to the next meeting.

4.10. Nomination & Election of Recording Secretary

Pamala Crompton NOMINATES Susan O'Keeffe and Sylvia Repas (alternate) as recording secretaries for 2014-2015.
Seconded by Naz Facchino.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.10.1. Compensation

Janet Sallie MOVED THAT the rate for the recording secretary is \$50.00 per meeting. Seconded by Rose Renza.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

4.11. Special Needs Parent Commissioner

Jennifer Maccarone explained the election that is coming up on November 2nd. New this time, there will be a Special Needs Parent Commissioner. This position is non-voting however you do get to sit at all of the meetings. There are 6 meetings per month that you or another Parent Commissioners are required to attend. Please think about this role and it will be discussed at next meeting.

Jennifer will send the members out some information on this role. Any candidates will present themselves at Parents Committee.

Pamala Crompton nominates herself for this role. Jennifer Maccarone seconds her nomination.

Other candidates can come forward at

Patricia Sassen MOVED THAT the nomination of the Special Needs Parent Commissioner is tabled to next meeting.
Seconded by Marianne Sassen.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

5. Reports

5.1. Chairperson's & Parents' Committee Reports

The Chairperson's report is in members packages.

Jennifer highlighted the school election that will take place on November 2nd vote. – Please vote!

Inspiration Magazine is a great resource for parents. There is a website and parents are encouraged to go and see it.
Please visit: swlsbparents.org – New parents committee website.

5.2. Director Complementary Services

5.2.1. Staff Changes

Mr. Greschner been hired as the SWLSB Assistant Director General.

Silvia Patella, is the new Assistant Director of Complementary Services who will be attending the SEAC meetings. Replacing her this year Johanna McKay for one year. Jennifer Abrantes is replacing Andrea Prupas, who is on loan of service to the MELS.

Different options are being looked at to replace Mr. Greschner for the interim as Director of Complementary Services.

Thank you to Mr. Greschner who has been an important part of this committee for many years.

5.2.2. Allocation of Financial Resources - Special Needs, Ententes/Mesures

Mr. Greschner presented and explained the budget and resources for the Special Needs students. A parity committee with several stakeholders sits and reviews how the financial resources are allocated to the students. There have been 3453 hours allocated to the schools for Special Education Technicians and Attendants this school year. This year unfortunately there were about 35% cuts to special education mesures. Some of the School Board operating budget monies were used in order to maintain the status quo for the special education allocation.

This year there is a 10% increase in speech and language pathologist.

The 30364 measure for professionals is ending after 5 years. Jennifer Macarone enquired that should the measure end, how will these professionals' jobs be maintained in the school board. Mr. Greschner responded that he is hoping that the money is not cut but depending on how much is cut, some employees will be protected.

The parity committee decides where the special needs money goes as a committee. This is a very challenging task in order to distribute the hours to all the students. The needs of all students are serviced within the schools even though they have not been officially identified with a code. Faster assessments must be done on students in order to benefit from early intervention. This is one of the demands that are being made in the next round of provincial agreements.

The committee discussed and were explained the services given in the schools. It is unfortunate that parents cannot take advantage of externally hiring of the professionals used in our Board.

Each school as a special needs parity committee and parents can ask their principal for the names of those who sit on it.

5.3. Financial Report

Jennifer asked what the funds in food and gifts are in the budget. Mr. Greschner will verify.

5.3.1. Approval of Budget

Patricia Sasso MOVED THAT the budget is approved for 2014-2015. Seconded by Elaine Sassen.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY

6. Business Arising

6.1. I.E.P. Documentation and Revisions

Review the documents that were e-mailed to you. Some documents from the Lester B Pearson SNAC committee are included. Bring recommendations and suggestions back to the next meeting in order to update the document. Jennifer will send back a rough draft to look at once she has received recommendations. A recommendation was made to have this document done in French.

- Parents would like to see a sample of an IEP
- Definitions of the language used – put it into parent language
- IEP's should be consistently applied all across our Board. Each school should have a standard package.
- Refine the language of who can attend when an IEP is given to a student
- What happens after your child has the IEP
- Generally, when the IEP should happen.
- Where do you go if you feel your child's needs are not being met.

Sebastien Joly responded that there are documents available on the MELS website that standardizes the terminology. Jennifer will e-mail this MELS document to members.

An IEP is an ongoing document. It carries over until the new IEP is made.

For the first meeting of an IEP, those present should be the Administrator, teacher or teachers concerned, at the request of the team, a professional, and the parents of the student. If the parents do not come, the IEP meeting will go on without them.

Jennifer would like to have a draft for members for the next meeting. Please e-mail her comments.

6.2. Special Needs Policy Review

A link to the policy was sent to members. Jennifer suggests we take it section by section. Please read section 3 before the next meeting. This policy will be ratified by the end of June 2015.

The mandate was received to review the policy.

6.3. Parent Conference & Workshop

The suggested date for the conference is April 23, 2015. The survey highlights were sent to members. Four top topics were identified.

7. Question Period

Welcome to Mr. Lattanzio who entered the meeting late.

8. Adjournment

Peter McLaurin MOVED THAT the meeting is adjourned at 9:16 p.m. Seconded by Patricia Sasso.

Carried UNANIMOUSLY