



Minutes of the Equity and Inclusivity Task Force (TF) of the Lester B. Pearson School Board
Meeting

Held On-Line

March 26, 2021, 19h:00

Chaired by Dr. Myrna Lashley

Task Force Mandate

- 1) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of existing policies and procedures pertaining to addressing and eliminating all forms of systemic racism and discrimination; and*
- 2) Produce actionable recommendations to serve as a foundation upon which individual institutions, based on demographic and educational requirements, can build to promote equity and inclusivity for all students and staff.*

Present:

Sharad Bhargava
Tiffany Callender
Chad Cowie
David Chisholm
Natalie Constant
Lisa Davis Mancini
Andrew Henry
Colin Jamieson
Kemba Mitchell
Wusua Mitchell
Fariha Naqvi Mohamed
Matthew Pike
Finn Poirier
Thomas Rhymes
Shari Waldrich

Absent- Regrets:

Khobee Gibson
Sabi Hinkson
Carol James
Felix Robitaille
Nimalan Yoganathan

The Chair called the meeting to order at 19h:00 and welcomed the members to the meeting.

The minutes of the March 12th meeting were approved.

The Chair reported that some media outlets have been in contact with her in regards to the recent resolution on *the ban of the N-word*, In schools/centers, with the exception of its use in an educational context. The Chair made it clear that this resolution was not the work of the TF, but a resolution independently tabled and confirmed by the Council of Commissioners.

The CBC has also contacted the chair inquiring about the final report, to which the Chair responded that the report timeline is being adhered to and the final report will be presented to the School Board in June.

Material titled, *A Pedagogical Guide to Leading a Respectful Discussion Around Racism in the Classroom* has been made available to the TF and placed in the academic literature folder. The Chair requested that the TF review this document and accompanying video, and send written feedback to her.

The subject of dress-code, specifically head wraps, has been brought to the attention of the TF, by school administrators inquiring about possible policy recommendations. The subject of head wraps/headgear policy would fall under the purview of the school administration. It was agreed that the TF will continue to address issues within its purview, but not get involved with issues falling outside of its mandate.

The TF discussed the recent incident at St. Thomas High school. A staff member from St. Thomas interrupted the OWTA educational presentation of the N-word that was presented over Zoom. Consideration for the final report could be a recommendation of didactic and experiential training on racism that would benefit all employees.

The next TF meeting will be held on April 9th at 19h:00

The meeting was adjourned at 21h:40