

SCHOOL/CENTRE NAME AND EXTERNAL PROPERTY NAME POLICY

CONSULTATION RESPONSES



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Clearpoint Elementary
Response to the Lester B Pearson School Board's Consultation on the
School/Centre and External Property Name Policy

November 15, 2022

To: Me. Geneviève Dugrés, Secretary General, Lester B. Pearson School Board

From: Liz Lopez, Governing Board Chairperson,
David Estok, Principal,
Clearpoint Elementary

Dear Me. Dugrés:

Please accept the following response from the Governing Board of Clearpoint Elementary regarding the Lester B Pearson School Board's Consultation on the School/Centre and External Property Name Policy

Although we do not have any specific recommendations regarding this policy consultation, we wish to go on record as noting the importance of this as well as all other consultative processes that the school board engages in, and through which the board solicits input from the members of its constituency and the larger educational community of the Lester B. Pearson School Board.

We appreciate having the opportunity to be participants in this and all other consultative processes and believe that these consultations give an important voice to our Governing Board as well as all other stakeholders.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Lopez
Governing Board Chairperson

David Estok
Principal

Clearpoint Elementary
17 Ave. Cedar
Pointe-Claire, QC

November 15, 2022

From: [KINGSDALE Governing Board](#)
To: [Andréanne Bertrand](#); [Consultations](#)
Cc: [Benjamin Pattison](#); [banan naji](#)
Subject: Re: Consultation - School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy
Date: 10 novembre 2022 13:23:34
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good Afternoon,
This is to confirm that Kingsdale Academy Governing Board have reviewed the information and do not have comments at this time.

Thank you,
Debbie Begg
Secretary

On Thu, Oct 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Andréanne Bertrand <abertrand06@lbpsb.qc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon,

This is a gentle reminder that the consultation on the School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy is ongoing and the deadline to respond is November 15, 2022. Please see below for more information.

Best regards,



Andréanne Bertrand

Agent de bureau – Services juridiques / Office Agent – Legal Services
514.422.3000 #30310
Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson
Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925, av. Brookdale, Dorval, QC.
www.lbpsb.qc.ca

From: Andréanne Bertrand
Sent: 28 juin 2022 14:39
To: GoverningBoardChairs <GoverningBoardChairs@lbpsb.qc.ca>; Parents' Committee Chair <pc-chair@lbpearson.ca>; SNAC Chair <snacchair@lbpearson.ca>; Admin Group <AdminGroup@lbpsb.qc.ca>; Region 1 Elementary Administrators <Region1ElementaryAdministrators@lbpsb.qc.ca>; Region 2 Elementary Administrators

From: [MOUNT PLEASANT Governing Board](#)
To: [Consultations](#)
Cc: [Dominique Daoust](#)
Subject: School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy
Date: 3 novembre 2022 16:31:13

Dear LBPSB,

Thank you for your invitation to consult on the new naming policy for schools, centers, and external property. The Governing Board of Mount Pleasant Elementary has reviewed the policy and thinks it is perfect. Thank you for your efforts to make the naming process transparent and equitable.

Have a great day,

Megan Wester
Chair of the Governing Board
Mount Pleasant Elementary School

Consultation Recommendations for LBPSB Council of Commissioners' School/Centre Name and External Name Policy

St. Anthony Elementary School Governing Board

October 25th, 2022

Summary

The St. Anthony Elementary School Governing Board recommends the following to the Council of Commissioners:

- A. Wording of EDDI objectives are not stated strongly enough**
 - B. Procedures for naming can be stated more harmoniously with EDDI objectives**
 - B.1.** Procedures for greater inclusivity of Indigenous and Native Voices
 - B.2.** Procedures for greater inclusivity of Asian, Black, Latina/o/x, LGBTQ+, Women Voices
 - B.3.** Procedures for greater inclusivity of Geographically Local Community
 - B.4.** Procedures for greater inclusivity of Existing School Community
-

A. Wording of EDDI objectives are not stated strongly enough

The use of the word “should” in the proposal makes it easy to interpret the policy less as a requirement and more as a suggested list of guidelines and principles.

If the policy’s true objectives are to be more in line with the goals of Equity, Diversity, Dignity, and Integration, the wording of “should” must be replaced with the wording of “must.”

For example, the sentence...

“In recognition of the diversity of Quebec and Canada, consideration should be given to groups of people who have historically not been well represented due to their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities, religion, or culture” (3.2.2)

...should be changed to...

“In recognition of the diversity of Quebec and Canada, consideration must be given to groups of people who have historically not been well represented due to their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, abilities, religion, or culture.”

B. Procedures for naming can be more harmonious with EDDI objectives

The Council is required to “consult” with others but the proposal does not precisely outline how the Council should weigh the community’s input nor directly consult with BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and Feminist organizations.

B.1. Indigenous and Native Voices

In order to be more inclusive of Kanesatake, Kahnawá:ke, Haudenosaunee, Wendake-Nionwentsío, and Anishinabek histories, the procedures for naming schools/centres must be done in consultation with and with the written approval of the governing bodies of the Indigenous and Native communities whose ancestral lands are where the schools/centres to be located.

The naming of the school/centre must also include a ceremony and a land acknowledgment with invited guests from Indigenous and Native communities whose ancestral lands are where the schools/centres to be located.

The official school logo must include a version of the name written out in Kanien’kehá:ka, Anishinaabemowin, or other language that the Indigenous and Native communities whose ancestral lands where the schools/centres are to be located see fit.

B.2. Asian, Black, Latina/o/x, LGBTQ+, Women Voices

In order to be inclusive of Asian, Black, Latinx, LGBTQ+, and Women’s histories, the Council must directly seek out suggestions from Asian, Black, Latina/o/x, LGBTQ+, and Feminist community centres found in the school board’s zone or wider region.

B.3. Voices of Geographically Local Community

The naming of new school properties must make concerted efforts to obtain at least 1% of individuals living in the specific school’s zone. This must be done through public notices posted on the school’s entryways as well as through mailing campaigns.

B.4. Voices of Existing School Community

In cases of name changes to an existing school/centre where a student body and community already exists, the LBPSB Commissioners must obtain approval from the existing school’s Governing Board.

From: [ST EDMUND Governing Board](#)
To: [Andréanne Bertrand](#)
Subject: Re: Consultation - School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy
Date: 6 novembre 2022 10:27:25
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello,

Thank you for sharing the policy with us.
The St. Edmund Governing Board has read the policy and has no comments on the policy at this time.

Regards,

Pamela Lee
Chair, St. Edmund Governing Board

On Thu, Oct 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Andréanne Bertrand <abertrand06@lbpsb.qc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon,

This is a gentle reminder that the consultation on the School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy is ongoing and the deadline to respond is November 15, 2022. Please see below for more information.

Best regards,



Andréanne Bertrand
Agent de bureau – Services juridiques / Office Agent – Legal Services
514.422.3000 #30310
Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson
Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925, av. Brookdale, Dorval, QC
www.lbpsb.qc.ca

From: Andréanne Bertrand
Sent: 28 juin 2022 14:39
To: GoverningBoardChairs <GoverningBoardChairs@lbpsb.qc.ca>; Parents' Committee

From: [ST JOHN FISHER JUNIOR Governing Board](#)
To: [Andréanne Bertrand; Consultations](#)
Cc: [Matthew Rino; Geneviève Dugré](#)
Subject: School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy
Date: 16 novembre 2022 14:47:05

Good afternoon,
I am officially writing on behalf of the St. John Fisher Jr Governing Board. We discussed the School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy Consultation at our last meeting.

The policy looks good and straightforward. We have nothing to add to it, however we would like to share a motion that was made at our last meeting which was to endorse the renaming of the St.Thomas lower field that both St John Fisher Jr/Sr and St.Thomas use, to the **Charles "Chuck" Poirrier Field**. This is a discussion happening at each school's Governing Board but since this pertains to the consultation we would like to take the opportunity to mention our desire to rename this field in honor of an important figure in the community.

Thanks so much for your time and allowing us to consult.

Nadia

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Nadia Lawand

St John Fisher Jr, Governing Board Chair
st.john.fisher.jr_gb@lbpearson.ca

From: ST JOHN FISHER SENIOR Governing Board
To: Andréanne Bertrand; Consultations; gdugre@lbpearson.ca
Subject: Re: Consultation - School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy
Date: 16 novembre 2022 14:52:38
Attachments: image001.png

Hello,

I am officially writing on behalf of the St. John Fisher Senior Governing Board. We discussed the School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy Consultation at our last meeting.

The policy looks good and straightforward. We have nothing to add to it, however we would like to share a motion that was made at our last meeting which was to endorse the renaming of the St.Thomas lower field that both St John Fisher Jr/Sr and St.Thomas use, to the **Charles "Chuck" Poirier Field**. This is a discussion happening at each school's Governing Board but since this pertains to the consultation we would like to take the opportunity to mention our desire to rename this field in honor of an important figure in the community.

Thanks so much for your time and allowing us to consult.

Have a great day!

--

Christine Archambault - Governing Board Chairperson
St. John Fisher Senior Elementary School
st.john.fisher.sr_gb@lbpearson.ca

On Thu, Oct 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Andréanne Bertrand <abertrand06@lbpsb.qc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon,

This is a gentle reminder that the consultation on the School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy is ongoing and the deadline to respond is November 15, 2022. Please see below for more information.

Best regards,



Andréanne Bertrand

Agent de bureau – Services juridiques / Office Agent – Legal Services
514.422.3000 #30310

Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson
Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925, av. Brookdale, Dorval, QC.
www.lbpsb.qc.ca

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

From: [JOHN_RENNIE Governing Board](#)
To: [Consultations](#)
Cc: [Jennifer Kurta](#); [Dov Bensimon](#)
Subject: Re: Consultation - School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy
Date: 27 octobre 2022 20:02:49
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello,

Thank you for sending the consultation regarding the School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy. It was discussed at last night's meeting of the Governing Board of John Rennie High School. The Governing Board had no comments or input to provide on the policy.

Kind regards,

Dov

--

Dov Bensimon

John Rennie High School Governing Board - Chair

On Thu, Oct 6, 2022 at 4:31 PM Andréanne Bertrand <abertrand06@lbpsb.qc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon,

This is a gentle reminder that the consultation on the School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy is ongoing and the deadline to respond is November 15, 2022. Please see below for more information.

Best regards,



Andréanne Bertrand

Agent de bureau – Services juridiques / Office Agent – Legal Services

514.422.3000 #30310

Commission scolaire Lester-B.-Pearson

Lester B. Pearson School Board

1925, av. Brookdale, Dorval, QC

www.lbpsb.qc.ca

From: [MACDONALD Governing Board](#)
To: Andréanne Bertrand
Subject: Re: Consultation - School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy
Date: 15 novembre 2022 15:36:52

Good day,

On behalf of the Macdonald High School Governing Board, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to take part in this consultation. We discussed the proposed policy at our Governing Board's meeting on October 19th.

We recognize the sensitivity with which such policies must be written, and note that the proposed policy clearly defines the role of Governing Boards in the naming of schools and centres.

However, our members raised concerns regarding the broad definition of "external property". As written, it seems that this policy would apply not only to larger installations that interface with the community (e.g., fields), but to any installation located outside the walls of the school including small installations intended to serve only the school community (e.g., an outdoor garden, a beehive, an outdoor walkway). The Macdonald High School Governing Board recommends that the policy should:

1. clearly distinguish between larger community-facing installations and smaller school-facing installations, and
2. apply only to these larger installations.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to take part in this consultation.

Best regards,

Michael Dugdale
Chair, Macdonald High School Governing Board
macdonald_gb@lbppearson.ca

On Oct 6, 2022, at 16:31, Andréanne Bertrand <abertrand06@lbpsb.qc.ca> wrote:

This is a gentle reminder that the consultation on the School/Centre Name and External Property Name Policy is ongoing and the deadline to respond is November 15, 2022. Please see below for more information.

Best regards,

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

From: [Chris Eustace](#)
To: [Geneviève Dugré](#)
Subject: Response to the Consultation on School / Centre Name Policy
Date: 15 novembre 2022 16:43:56
Attachments: [0-1 \(1\).jpg](#)
["APPEL" aux membres de l'Assemblée nationale concernant le nom d'une école \(1\).pdf](#)
[Consultation Responses MSC Policy \(2\).pdf](#)
[Major School Change Consultation - Nov. 2019.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the school board. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

November 15, 2022

Lester B. Pearson School Board

Me Geneviève Dugré
Secretary-General

Chris Eustace: grandfather, retired LBPSB teacher & intervenor in the school board reform Bill 40 court case

Concerning: Response to the School / Centre / External Property Name Policy

<https://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/wp-content/uploads/School-Centre-Name-and-External-Property-Name-Policy-Consultation.pdf>

Response

The purpose of this paper is two-fold: (1) to give some background via past MSC consultations that may help (2) to prepare for the future as changes are inevitable. MSCs are linked to name changes.

For several years, changing or removing the names of schools has been a controversial matter for the Pearson board...This consultation with links & PDFs may shed some light on the issue and help put things in perspective. Terms such as school merger, school closure or school transfer may lead to confusion but common sense also comes into play.

For starters, I will refer to two Pearson high schools because there are no better examples of how not to do things.

First, though, let's recapitulate what the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) claims:

"...*Commissioners are elected by taxpayers to represent them and are accountable to their communities...they serve as a sounding board for parents.*" Hardly.

Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School

" NO to closing and Rebranding Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School "

<https://www.change.org/p/no-to-closing-and-rebranding-pierrefonds-comprehensive-high-school>

There are numerous comments accompanying the petition.

Suburban - letter to the Editor: "Is Pierrefonds Comprehensive in danger?" - Feb. 27, 2019

http://www.thesuburban.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/is-pierrefonds-comprehensive-in-danger/article_47a64668-2500-5922-bfe0-e0cda99be609.html

"PCHS parents, alumni upset by planned shotgun merger with Riverdale" | Montreal Gazette

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/west-island-gazette/pchs-parents-alumni-upset-by-planned-shotgun-merger-with-riverdale>

In addition to the above, there are links below and a Video from an LBPSB Council meeting concerning the PCHS name change. There was also an Ethics case filed on the issue. Members of the National Assembly were also apprised ...Details are below.

Lindsay Place High School

A letter by retired McGill prof says it all in a letter to the Suburban editor on Jan. 8, 2020: "**Judge Place deserved better**" -

https://www.thesuburban.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/judge-place-deserved-better/article_67cc30a1-5103-551f-a297-2c422d942191.html

We should also keep in mind the prominent citizens in the early '60s who named a building after the prime mover of English education on the West Island...only to be replaced with a plaque on a rock in a field.

Suggestions:

1. Commissioners should not go against the wishes of the Governing Board and the electorate - especially when there are over 3600 of them. It makes a farce of the word '**consultation**'. .. It makes a case for transforming elected school boards into education centers where the Director-General is the spokesperson.
2. When claiming the elected school board system is the last institution we (anglos)control, it is not prudent for commissioners to erase our history regarding the founding father of English education in the West Island. (LPHS)
3. Never rename a building after a living person. I am thinking of the 'Marcus Tabachnick Pavilion' formerly known as St. Veronica elementary school. Fortunately, that didn't last too long.

Bottom line :

It is always the Governing Boards that should make the final decision regarding name changes of their schools, not the commissioners.

Merci / Thank you

Chris Eustace

LBPSB Council Meeting - January 2019

<https://vimeo.com/332357413>



Le 29 avril 2019

Tous les membres de l'Assemblée nationale (Cci)

Bonjour,

Le but de cette lettre est de mettre en perspective la dernière tactique utilisée par l'Association des commissions scolaires anglophones du Québec (ACSAQ) pour lutter contre la Coalition Avenir Québec et son plan d'éducation, dont l'objectif est de moderniser et de démocratiser le réseau scolaire public élu.

Le 25 avril 2019, une alliance provinciale composée de Québécois anglophones a créé une organisation appelée APPELE-Québec. Ceci a été organisé par l'ancien député libéral Russell Copeman, actuellement directeur exécutif de l'ACSAQ. Le président d'APPELE-Québec est l'ancien député libéral Geoffrey Kelley.

« [Les communautés anglophones s'allient pour lutter pour le maintien des commissions scolaires démocratiquement élues](#) »

Consultations

M. Kelley a déclaré : « Nous croyons comprendre que cette loi est en voie de préparation sans qu'il y ait eu de participation officielle de la communauté d'expression anglaise. ».

Malheureusement, M. Kelley oublie qu'il y a trois ans, lorsqu'il était dans le Cabinet du gouvernement Couillard, les libéraux ont publié un plan d'éducation (projet de loi 86) qui éliminait également les élections des commissions scolaires. Des consultations massives ont eu lieu dans le cadre desquelles 96 mémoires ont été présentés, dont de nombreux provenant de la communauté de langue anglaise. Il n'y a rien de nouveau à ajouter.

Soit dit en passant, voici le mémoire que j'ai présenté. Consultez la [page 31](#) et lisez les excuses de M. Copeman et M. Kelley dans une lettre adressée au rédacteur du quotidien *The Gazette* en juin 2008, concernant l'absence de manuels scolaires anglais pour les étudiants anglophones. Il a fallu que la ministre de l'Éducation Michelle Courchesne s'en mêle pour régler cet état de choses.

Réduction des commissions scolaires anglophones ; débordement au sein des commissions scolaires francophones

Ce n'est un secret pour personne que le nombre d'inscriptions aux écoles anglaises est en baisse et que les écoles françaises réclament plus d'espace d'urgence.

Lors de son investiture, le Président Kelley a déclaré :

« Pour un gouvernement qui prétend vouloir écouter les parents, lorsque les parents apprennent par les médias un lundi matin que l'école de leurs enfants est sur le point de fermer, ce n'est pas la façon de faire les choses. » (*Montreal Gazette, 26 avril 2019*)

Il faisait allusion à l'école secondaire Riverdale appartenant à la Commission scolaire Lester-B. Pearson (CSLBP). En voici le récit :

« [Transfert d'une école : Québec va trop vite, déplorent les anglophones](#) » (29 janvier 2019)

Pire communicatrice

Cette histoire démontre précisément que la CSLBP est la pire communicatrice imaginable.

En raison du surpeuplement dans ses écoles, la Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys, par l'entremise du ministre de l'Éducation, a demandé d'avoir de l'espace de la CSLBP.

Selon *CTV News* (28 janvier 2019), la CSLBP aurait demandé au ministre de l'Éducation Roberge d'attendre 18 mois pour pouvoir tenir des consultations. Pendant ce temps, la CSMB a demandé à Riverdale de lui accorder 10 classes, mais le Conseil d'établissement a refusé (Procès-verbaux, décembre 2018).

De toute évidence, les discussions entre les deux commissions scolaires n'avaient pas assez vite et la CSMB continuait de grossir de jour en jour. Le ministre a donc décidé d'invoquer l'article 477 et a donné l'école secondaire Riverdale à la CSMB. Cette école avait été construite pour 950 élèves mais ne desservant que 300.

Le transfert a été communiqué par lettre adressée à la CSLBP le 18 décembre 2018. Personne n'a eu connaissance de cette lettre jusqu'en fin janvier 2019. Les médias ont demandé au président de la CSLBP Noel Burke pourquoi il n'avait pas rendu cette histoire publique. Il a répondu qu'il croyait que M. Roberge pourrait changer d'idée.

Pire encore, dans son rapport oral au Comité des parents le 7 février 2019, Noel Burke a déclaré que le Conseil était sous embargo lorsqu'on leur a dit, le 18 décembre 2018, que l'école Riverdale serait transférée à la CSMB.

En d'autres termes, tous les 16 commissaires scolaires élus démocratiquement ne devaient rien dire au sujet de cette institution publique. La communauté a été tenue dans l'ignorance pendant environ 41 jours. Un temps précieux a été perdu.

Quel manque de démocratie ! Est-ce pour cela qu'APPELE-Québec se bat ?

Commissaire à l'éthique

De toute évidence, on a essayé d'induire la communauté en erreur. Il fallait que ça se sache. J'ai donc demandé au Commissaire à l'éthique d'intervenir. Lorsque j'ai communiqué avec le Commissaire à l'éthique, par l'entremise de la commission scolaire, une copie de ma lettre a été envoyée au Comité des parents, au Conseil, à la direction, au ministre de l'Éducation et au Secrétariat aux affaires anglophones.

Le 1^{er} mars 2019, j'ai rencontré le Commissaire à l'éthique pendant 3,5 heures. Mon témoignage a été enregistré. Puisque je n'ai pas eu de nouvelles depuis, je crois qu'il est toujours sous étude.

Fusion, fermeture ou transfert ?

Puisque Riverdale allait être fermée, on a donné aux parents et aux élèves la possibilité de choisir n'importe quelle école pour la rentrée scolaire en septembre 2019.

Évidemment, la CSLBP les a encouragés à choisir Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School car c'était la plus proche.

Puis l'histoire a changé, car là il s'agissait de décider s'il fallait fusionner ces deux écoles, fermer une école ou la transférer. Ceci était important, car il aurait probablement fallu changer le nom de l'école.

Beaucoup de fausses informations ont été publiées par la CSLBP, tel que démontré par deux Conseils d'établissement, deux séances de discussion ouvertes, deux pétitions et des lettres aux rédacteurs. Tout a été consigné dans le procès-verbal du Comité des parents de la CSLBP et du Conseil Pearson, ainsi que rapporté dans les médias - radio, télévision, journaux.

Il a été rapporté à maintes reprises que l'école secondaire Riverdale souhaitait que l'école secondaire Pierrefonds Comprehensive (PCHS) change de nom. La PCHS s'est bien battue mais, à mon avis, a été obligée de changer d'avis.

Riverdale a déclaré que : « ce processus était vicié dès le début »... « un nouveau nom, voilà la priorité »... « ... l'acte mettant en place la PCHS (doit) être rédigé d'urgence »... « ... une décision doit être prise dès que possible... »

La PCHS a refusé dans une pétition signée par environ 3700 personnes et, en février, a déposé une plainte auprès de la CSLBP... Elle a adopté une motion visant à conserver le nom : Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School. Mais c'était déjà trop tard, car le président Burke avait suggéré un changement de nom. (Veuillez suivre les trois liens dans cette lettre pour en lire le contenu.)

[The future in public education: Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School](#) (L'avenir de l'éducation publique : École secondaire Pierrefonds Comprehensive)

Certes, M. Kelley était au courant.

Alors, plus tard aujourd'hui, le 29 avril, le nom de la PCHS sera modifié en se basant sur des messages contradictoires et des informations fausses et trompeuses.

Demande d'intervention

La décision de changer le nom de PCHS devrait être reportée pour deux raisons :

Le commissaire à l'éthique n'a toujours pas présenté son rapport intitulé : « Complaint by Chris Eustace against Chairman Mr. Noel Burke (file no. 3xxx-5) » (Plainte déposée par Chris Eustace contre le président, M. Noel Burke (n° de dossier 3xxx-5))

Le président de la CSLBP ne présidera pas à la réunion du Conseil parce qu'il est « ...à l'étranger » et n'a « ...qu'un accès intermittent à son courrier électronique... » et... « ... ne pourra probablement répondre qu'à son retour. »

Respectueusement,

Chris Eustace

13445 Purcell
Montréal, QC
H8Z 3H9

514 620-0726

[Extraits des périodes de question à la réunion du Conseil de la CSLBP de janvier et février](#) (C. Eustace et président Noel Burke uniquement)

Information pour le ministre de l'Éducation Jean-François Roberge et la CSMB

Écoles de la CSLBP

Données sur les inscriptions

ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE	Inscriptions	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Capacité
	(2018-2019)	Prévision	Prévision	Prévision	
Beaconsfield	799	726	746	754	1200
Beurling Academy	315	273	252	222	725
John Rennie	1335	1323	1311	1273	1650
Lakeside Academy	484	518	534	554	1150
Lasalle Community	654	707	763	785	1325
Lindsay Place	463	406	373	347	1375
Macdonald	831	903	898	882	975
Pierrefonds Comprehensive	644	944***	902	860	1100
Saint-Thomas	1231	1267	1254	1254	1333
Westwood Jr	405	408	419	450	750
Westwood Sr	620	631	647	667	1020

(***Avec Riverdale) - La capacité de l'École secondaire Riverdale est de 950 ; actuellement, deux-tiers de l'école est vide...L'école dessert environ 300 étudiants selon Radio-Canada et le président Noel Burke...(Ces données ont été tirées du Plan de répartition sur trois ans de la CSLBP... 2019-2022.)

(Please note that individual names mentioned deal with public positions , and are not of a personal nature)

From: [Geneviève Dugré](#)
To: [Chris Eustace](#)
Cc: [Sabrina Kaley](#)
Subject: RE: Response to a Major School Change Consultation - Chris Eustace
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8:59:10 AM

Thank you for submitting your response.

Best regards,
Geneviève Dugré

From: Chris Eustace [mailto:cgeustace@gmail.com]
Sent: 22 avril 2019 08:54
To: Geneviève Dugré
Cc: Chris Eustace
Subject: Response to a Major School Change Consultation - Chris Eustace

April 22, 2019

Lester B. Pearson School Board

Geneviève Dugré
Secretary General

MAJOR SCHOOL CHANGE CONSULTATION : A Policy on the Distribution of Educational Services

Response by Chris Eustace

An Analysis of the Situation

Considering the confusion of the recent transfer / fusion / merger of Riverdale High School to the Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys, this consultation could not have come at a better time.

One reason for a loss of another English school is the fact that there has been an increase in the number of students who are eligible for English schooling but their parents have chosen the French system.

In 2015, 27.9 per cent of students whose mother tongue in English attended French schools in the province. Last month, March 2019, it was 28 per cent.

Let's reel back a bit .

Following a loss at a run to be chair of the Pearson board in Nov. 2014 , I wrote a letter to the "New Council of Commissioners" on Nov. 25, 2014 @ 8:45 am following their first meeting the evening before - Nov. 24, 2014.

The letter was sent to all commissioners (regular and parent), the Central Parents' Committee and the Directorate

The email was titled: "From the campaign trail: CLOSING OF HIGH SCHOOL(S).

"While on the campaign trail, as a candidate for LBPSB chairman, one of the most frequent questions I was asked by parents dealt with issues regarding the future of their schools.

Justifiably, there is a sense of apprehension out there. Parents want to know if the high school they register their children in, will still be around for the five years that their child would attend.

The last decisions on school closing were made in December 2009. However, they involved only elementary schools.

Five years later, enrolment decline is having a serious impact at the Secondary Level too.

The community needs some level of assurance, a clear picture, regarding the future status of our high schools, and the potential closing of any Pearson high school.

QUESTIONS:

Has the board undertaken any contingency plans either in the short or long term for the high school network?

When will the public be apprised of these plans ? "

On December 19, 2014, Chairperson Suanne Stein Day (SSD) wrote back. Her letter was only copied to François Hamel (school board lawyer). This an excerpt from the letter:

" Your letter was received by the Council of Commissioners and I am thus responding to the questions posed.

1. Closing of high schools. The board has not undertaken any contingency plans re high school as there has been no discussion or intention of closing any high schools. We have, over the years, effectively repurposed available space in our high schools, reducing or even eliminating the need for closures." ...

(Incidentally , the reason I ran for chair was because I was fed up being banned by SSD from participating at Public Question Periods, something I have been doing since 1998. SSD didn't like my questions regarding school board finances.

The Council Minutes indicate that a citizen *"Questioned the continuation of a ban on an individual speaking at council meetings that was affected by the previous Council."*

At the second Question Period another citizen: *"Requested that the Council reconsider its decision in that Mr. Eustace be permitted to participate in the Public Question Period for humanitarian reasons."* (www.lbpsb.qc.ca)

Even though I was present for every meeting, this ban lasted thirty five (35) months without one commissioner asking its justification...)

Anyway included in her answer to my questions on school closings, SSD added this in the same email :

"Further, I commented that Me. Francois Hamel, our legal counsel, may be contacting you to present another alternative to the condition that you schedule a meeting to meet with me. Unfortunately, contrary to your statements otherwise, you have demonstrated at Executive Meeting and at Council that you are unable to follow the rules of our Council or even Robert's Rules of Orders. Therefore, I have taken the offer is off the table."

SUGGESTIONS:

Elementary schools

This present consultation will deal primarily with matters at the High School Level. Nevertheless, here are two suggestions for the elementary level I mentioned at the March 2015 Major School Change Consultation. (the only one by an "individual")

SUGGESTION # 1 Merge all elementary schools which have less than 50 % of their maximum capacity. This will not only save money but also ensure more and better services at the school due to the increase in the number of students.

To achieve this thought, we must push the government to increase the school transportation budget : provide busses /passes and/or subsidize 'city' busses...

SUGGESTION # 2 - All Pearson elementary school students should follow the Français Plus Program. Period. (This program has the most French instruction).

High Schools

Numbers at the High School Level

<u>HiGH SCHOOL Capacity</u>	<u>Enrollment (2018-2019)</u>	<u>Forecast 2019 - 2020</u>
Beaconsfield 1200	799	726
Beurling Academy 725	315	273
John Rennie 1650	1335	1323
Lakeside Academy 1150	484	518
Lasalle Community 1325	654	707
Lindsay Place 1375	463	406
Macdonald 975	831	903
Pierrefonds Comprehensive 1100	644	944***
Saint Thomas 1333	1231	1267
Westwood Jr. 750	405	408
Westwood Sr. 1020	620	631

(*** with Riverdale) - RHS capacity is 950 ; presently it is about 2/3 empty (300 students) according to CBC and chair Noel Burke)

Immediate Concerns

The Commission scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys still needs space for about 2000 students.

That said, I take no joy in writing this but it is apparent, by looking at the numbers above, we need to unload another high school. While this may sound harsh, the realities of the situation dictate fusing two schools will increase student services and offer more activities in the school with more students.

We must do this on our own, not the government. We must also do this in a more organized way. There has been a stunning amount of confusion regarding the Riverdale and Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School consolidation.

Someone recently wrote : "*Maximizing the use of any public facility is in the best interests of society and the use of tax dollars. Yes, there are always personal and emotional considerations but change is also part of life and its realities!*"

Talk of name change for PCHS has been controversial. This is completely unnecessary.

At a Town Hall meeting, I asked a rhetorical question:

" Heaven forbid one of our schools is destroyed by an act of Mother Nature, would the school accepting the students who were displaced be expected to change its name ?"

Of course not. Besides renaming a school does absolutely nothing for student achievement.

It's been said that a name change is necessary because the Riverdale students will feel left out in their new school. They will have no one to identify with .

I suggest the LBPSB appoint Riverdale's principal as the new principal of Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School...

I recommend the board see to it that the guidance counsellor familiar to Riverdale students also move to Pierrefonds Comprehensive ...

Of course , the plaque in honour of Dave Reid, physical education teacher at Riverdale for 50 years, be placed at the gymnasium (Field House) of Pierrefonds Comprehensive

Lastly, it would be great to combine the colours of both schools and come up

with a brand new school uniform. That really would be classy !

END

On Nov. 15, 2019, at 11:08 AM, Consultations <consultations@lbpsb.qc.ca> wrote:

Good morning,

Thank you for submitting your response to the MSC consultation.

Best regards,

Geneviève Dugré

From: Chris Eustace [<mailto:cgeustace@gmail.com>]

Sent: 15 novembre 2019 08:56

To: Consultations

Subject: Attn: Geneviève Dugré - Response to an LBPSB Major School Change Consultation - November 2019

Major School Change Consultation - November 2019

Lester B. Pearson School Board, Dorval, QC

Attention: Geneviève Dugré, Secretary General

From: Chris Eustace: taxpayer & grandfather of children attending LBPSB schools

An Analysis of the Situation

During the past year, there has been a fair amount of controversy at the Pearson board concerning the subject of school closings and mergers.

The reason for this is that many French schools are overcrowded and crying for space, while many English schools are underused. Part of the problem is the fact that about 28 percent of students who are eligible for English schooling, their parents chose French instruction.

Let's back up a bit.

Following a loss at a run to be chair of the Pearson board in Nov. 2014, I wrote a letter to the "New Council of Commissioners" on Nov. 25, 2014.

The email was titled: "**CLOSING OF HIGH SCHOOL(S)**":

"While on the campaign trail, as a candidate for LBPSB chairman, one of the most frequent questions I was asked by parents dealt with issues regarding the future of their schools. Justifiably, there is a sense of apprehension out there. Parents want to know if the high school they register their children in, will still be around for the five years that their child would attend.

The community needs some level of assurance, a clear picture, regarding the future status of our high schools, and the potential closing of any Pearson high school."

Basically, I was ignored by then Chairperson Stein Day, who won the election and continued banning me to participate at Public Question Period time. This lasted a total of 35 months.

At any rate, about seven months later, CBC reported on June 11, 2015 : "[Quebec proposes cutting maintenance budget of half-empty schools.](#)"

Note these Lester B. high schools: Lindsay Place at 43 % capacity and Riverdale at 45 % capacity.

Earlier this year, the Riverdale story created quite a stir not only because the school was transferred to the neighbouring French board but also because the name of Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School was changed to Pierrefonds Community High School.

CJAD radio first reported on this name change possibility...

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/cjad/news/after-riverdale-high-closes-pchs-may-get-a-new-name-1.8720524>

Letters were written; PCHS GB passed a resolution; a petition signed with over 3,500 names was presented, and the Pearson board in February had a visit by many parents who wanted to maintain the name.

<http://pchs.lbpsb.qc.ca/Merger/2019-02-22-Revised-GB-Motion.pdf>

<https://www.change.org/p/no-to-closing-and-rebranding-pierrefonds-comprehensive-high-school>

<https://www.iheartradio.ca/cjad/news/petition-drive-launched-to-keep-pchs-name-1.8978407>

http://www.thesuburban.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/is-pierrefonds-comprehensive-in-danger/article_47a64668-2500-5922-bfe0-e0cda99be609.html

However, what I found most disturbing are the comments made by the past principal:

"I know my community could live with it," and backs the name change: "100 percent..." ...(yet, 3,657 signed petition).

<https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/west-island-gazette/would-pierrefonds-community-high-school-pass-the-name-sniff-test>

PRESENT SITUATION

Anyway regarding this MSC Consultation, the following is a published letter to the Montreal Gazette on October 12, 2019:

"Lindsay Place in better condition"

Re: "Defensive strategy needed as more English schools face closure, transfers" (Albert Kramberger, Oct. 9)

"Albert Kramberger is correct when he writes the Lester B. Pearson School Board must not 'buckle under public pressure to maintain the status quo.'

As he puts it, "programs and the teachers actually 'make' a school, not the brick walls that house them."

That said, having taught adult evening courses for over a year at Lindsay Place High School and two years at St. Thomas, it is apparent to me what the strategy should be.

LPHS has a capacity rate of less than 40 percent but is definitely a "superior structure" compared to St. Thomas, which is physically attached to a school belonging to the French Marguerite-Bourgeoys board.

Once Lester B. becomes a service centre in November 2020, the government will have a bigger say in matters. Hard to predict which way things might turn out.

However, I believe, if St. Thomas moves into LPHS, the school will thrive and flourish for many years to come." (CE)

Other *Gazette* letters: Create larger English schools - June 1, 2019

"Having participated in a few major-school-change consultations at the Pearson board over the years, there is no question the exercise is very emotional for parents who agonize over possible closings of their schools.

Highlighting the issue this year is the knowledge that under Quebec's Education Act, the "education minister has the power to transfer schools" from one board to another.

That said, Education Minister Jean-François Roberge has promised "millions of dollars" to English boards in exchange for transferred schools. These monies could be used to create larger schools that are closer to capacity.

That would lend itself to less risk and worry about school closure and possibly open the door for more parents to choose our schools." (CE)

***Gazette* letter: English Schools must face reality - June 20, 2019**

Re: "School transfers merit a challenge" (Letters, June 13)

"Bad-mouthing the "bully-style governance" of the Coalition Avenir Québec, as claimed by Marcus Tabachnick, regarding the transfer of three shrinking English schools to the neighbouring bulging French school board, in my view, is not being helpful.

Education Minister Jean-François Roberge has done the English Montreal School Board a favour by doing the unpleasant job of closing schools with low capacity, partly caused by parents who chose private or French schooling for their children.

To better use our precious education dollars, it would be more helpful if we keep a close eye on the enrolment capacity of our schools.

Once the number drops to, say, 45 per cent, the school accepts reality: short-term pain, long-term gain." (CE)

Regardless of whatever decision comes down regarding the aforementioned schools , it must be the Governing Boards that decide on the name.

Chris Eustace
(retired LBPSB teacher)

* * * * END * * *