



April 17 2019

Mr. Jean Francois Roberge
Minister of Education
1035 rue De La Chevrotière
Quebec, Quebec G1R 5A5

Dear Mr. Roberge,

The Special Needs Advisory Committee of the Lester B. Pearson School Board supports the recent change to establish a second twenty minute recess in the afternoon for students. We appreciate the importance of providing the opportunities for more physical movement during the school day.

However, we are concerned about the suggestion that the school day may be increased by twenty minutes to accommodate this extension. The implications will undoubtedly affect scheduling, busing and support services for all students especially those with special needs.

We are somewhat confused and disappointed that little information was made available about any additional financial support for this initiative for our schools. While this may affect the collective agreements of staff, including the teachers and support staff, one of our main concerns is that if no specifically targeted funds are made available for this initiative, support for many of the students with special needs will not be funded for that extended time in the school day.

Our school board supports the philosophy of inclusive education and many, if not most, of our students with special needs have the opportunity to work side-by-side with their peers following their individual learning paths. This process can only be successful if the teachers feel secure that the students' needs are being supported by additional adults in their classrooms throughout the school day.

Our hope is that the Ministry will support this decision (addition of extra recess) with additional targeted funds to support the extension of the school day.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Sincerely,

Jennifer DiMarco, Chairperson
Special Needs Advisory Committee
Lester B Pearson School Board
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