



Wednesday May 27, 2020

Me. Geneviève Dugré  
Secretary General, Lester B. Pearson School Board  
Lester B. Pearson School Board  
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**Consultation Response: Three Year Plan of Allocation and Destination of Immovables 2020-2023**

Dear Me. Dugré,

In regard to this proposed policy, the Special Needs Advisory Committee would like to encourage the Council of Commissioners to keep in mind that there are many important services and programs for students with special needs that are housed at the different LBPSB schools and centres. Some examples include, but are not limited to, the LIFE Program, REACH program and various Work Oriented Training Path (WOTP) Programs.

Change may be very challenging for many students, especially those with special needs. The Special Needs Advisory Committee would like to strongly encourage that special consideration be made to maintain all of the current services and programs in the current locations, with the least amount of disruption or change for these students as possible. In addition, if changes must be made to the locations of these programs that would require a greater travel time for these students, this could be problematic. Therefore the committee would like to recommend that special transportation arrangements be considered.

It is our understanding in speaking to a parent in the CFER Riverdale program that there are concerns with the program being in a non LBPSB school. Several restrictions have been put in place this year namely :

- the gymnasium can only be used on certain days
- they need permission to use the bathrooms as the only bathroom in CFER is the wheelchair accessible one



- they have a specific time frame to use the cafeteria, if the student misses it... a staff member has to provide some sort of food
- The use of the elevator is another issue as it is a CFER student that needs it and not one of their students; so when it breaks down they do not seem to be in a hurry to fix it. The student in CFER who uses a wheelchair missed several phys ed classes because of a broken elevator.
- Parents were told that they are definitely staying there for one more year.
- Teachers are worried how this will impact the students as next school year, there will be more students in the French school so the restrictions will be greater

Special consideration must be made to accommodate students who require physical accommodations such as ramps, wheelchair friendly bathrooms, elevators and accessible handicapped parking spaces that are clearly marked.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this consultation.

Respectfully,

Jennifer DiMarco  
Chairperson, Special Needs Advisory Committee, 2020-2021  
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