

Wednesday August 26, 2020

Me. Geneviève Dugré
Assistant Director of Secretariat and Legal Services
Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925 Brookdale Avenue
Dorval, QC H9P 2Y7

Subject: Appropriate Use of Digital Resources and Technology Policy Consultation

Dear Me. Dugré,

The Special Needs Advisory Committee would like to provide the following input to the Appropriate Use of Digital Resources and Technology Policy:

Firstly, we would like to acknowledge how very pleased we are to see that LBPSB is implementing such a policy.

We do have several points of feedback we wish for you to consider:

- Throughout the entire policy we see no mention of how teachers, principals/centre directors are supposed to handle or bring forward any complaints regarding digital bullying, pornography etc.. It simply mentions that staff report it to their supervisor, but it does not mention specifics on how or in what format. For example, report in writing to the immediate supervisor which would create a paper trail can be followed to ensure the incident has been fully investigated and dealt with.

Page 3 of 27 on point 4 in paragraph 3 it states:

“the school board will take measures to monitor access”

- We wish to make notice of “google hangouts – which is the messaging, voice and video feature of the g suite”. It is not possible for the school board to monitor what students are doing in google hangouts.

We mention this as SNAC has been informed by parents of students with special needs, that inappropriate content has been shared and distributed by and among students, using this platform and their LBPSB student accounts. This inappropriate content includes, but is not limited to, very disturbing material, as well as racist and pornographic images and videos.

Page 5 of 27 it states “The School Board maintains a log³ detailing internet use and data traffic of all users and reviews it as required.”

- There is no mention of what the log³ refers to at the bottom of the page or anywhere in the document.
- Additionally, as previously mentioned, it is not possible for the school board to monitor what is occurring on google hangouts therefore it is our recommendation that it clearly be stated –

with the exception of google hangouts.

Page 11 of 27 Addendum D under Employee Obligations and Responsibilities

Under Reporting it states that “if an employee becomes aware of any ... misuse of Digital Resources and Technologies, he or she shall immediately report such information to his or her supervisor”.

- SNAC feels strongly that it should clearly state that employees will receive appropriate training by a qualified professional regarding what to do when a student reports a violation of the digital resources and technologies. Staff need training on the appropriate way to respond as ***it can be extremely damaging to a student, especially one with special needs, should an employee downplay the reception of cyber bullying or reception of digital pornographic material.***

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this consultation.

Respectfully,

Jennifer DiMarco - Chair
Special Needs Advisory Committee, 2019-2020