



Wednesday June 2, 2021

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 2021-2024**

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 Ed-Venture Program, REACH program, various Work Oriented Training Path (WOTP) Programs including in-School Alternative programs such as Visions program at PCHS, and Genesis at Lindsay Place and Embarkations etc...

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 their 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. Clear communication and campaign around the changes must be vocalised and distributed to all potential students and to their parents and/or guardians. Therefore the committee would like to recommend that special transportation arrangements be considered.

It is our understanding that the CFER Riverdale program continues, over a year later, to look for a new location and that the centre de services scolaire Marguerite-Bourgeoys has officially provided notice that they will be using the CFER Riverdale building as of April 2022. In a letter to CFER parents dated April 30th it indicated it has LBPSB staff and students moving out of the building as of February 2022. This program is home to many students with special needs within our board who are learning such important and valuable work. Please continue to look for a home to continue this program.



In reviewing your consultation, it is clear that some of our elementary schools are above operational capacity and it appears will remain overcrowded for years to come. Namely, Dorset Elementary in Baie D'Urfe has a capacity of 286, yet currently has 323 registered this year. The enrollment forecast for future years is 329 for 2021-2022, 321 for 2022-2023 then 306 for the 2023-2024 school year. This overcrowding is very much a concern, when the nearby school - Christmas Park is at half capacity and Saint Edmund is also nearing capacity. Another elementary school currently working over capacity is Clearpoint. It has a capacity of 441 students, yet this year has 445 enrolled. The enrollment forecast for future years is 440 for 2021-2022, 441 for 2022-2023 then 431 for the 2023-2024 school year. We are curious what rooms are likely being removed to accommodate the extra capacity? Is it the library, resource rooms or music rooms? How did this overcrowding come to be and what impact is it having on the students with special needs?

Another possible tab for next year would be to write if the elementary schools are Bilingual or Early Immersion on this form.

As the Special Needs Advisory Committee, who has been asked to respond to this consultation - information on the special needs student population and the programs within the schools is important information.

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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