

From: [ALLION Governing Board](#)
To: [Consultations](#)
Subject: Allion response - Consultation Launch - Policy on Major School Change
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 11:42:20 PM

Hello,

Please see below Allion's response to the MSC policy (sorry for the delay).

On the MSC policy draft, point #4 states:

4. The public notice shall state the date and location of the public consultation meeting(s).

This public notice will be published as follows:

- a. in a daily newspaper circulated digitally or in print in the territory of the School Board;
- b. on the Board website at www.lbpsb.qc.ca; and
- c. by posting a copy of the notice in every school/centre within the School Board.

We would like to have two options added:

- d. on the Board social media accounts (i.e. Facebook)
- e. on the school/centre social media accounts (i.e. Facebook)

Thank You
Shiana Warren
Allion Governing Board Chair

LBPSB Major School Change consultation

Lakeside Academy Governing Board Response

We understand this policy is a procedural document for how to proceed with the consultation around major school changes within the Board. We also acknowledge that these procedures are bound by certain realities of the Education Act and other existing policies.

Nonetheless, we would hope that certain guiding principles of transparency and inclusivity toward the communities impacted would be adhered to throughout the process. To this end, we request that a copy of the final approved consultation, with amendments clearly indicated be made available at the end of the process. It's important for GBs to be able to clearly see the impact their feedback has on the final policy.

Specific comments are:

- 1) Page 2, Point 3: Schools should have to publish on their web sites, affected schools should send home to families via email, ERMs to assure visibility.
- 2) Page 2, Point 4: The entire network should be informed of any MSC. Even if there are no direct impacts, there are always ripple effects throughout the network. Also, it gives all school bodies familiarity and experience with MSC, leading to more proficiency when dealing with one. The Fusion Portal should be used to disseminate information to all parents.
- 3) Page 2, Point 5: Schools, especially those impacted by the MSC, should be compelled to send the consultation documentation out to their communities to ensure the widest possible visibility and input from the communities.
- 4) Page 2, Point 6: The documentation should include more than one name for additional information. It should include (or have the option to append) the schools' information as well so their communities have all this information at hand when reading the document.
- 5) Page 3, Point 7: We feel this is good in that it provides the transparency mentioned above, but we would like clarification as to what "consult" means. How exactly would the Governing Boards be consulted? What distinguishes that consultation?
- 6) Page 3, Point 10: "Commissioner(s) from the electoral division(s) concerned" (as there may be more than one division involved.)

- 7) Page 3, Point 11: Any limitations to said opportunity must be spelled out here. Is it a one-hour question period? Two hours? Previous MSC public meetings have frustrated stakeholders by limiting their opportunity to engage in public meetings. Transparency is required here.
- 8) Page 3, Point 13: There needs to be much more clarification here as to what constitutes “relevant” information. This must be agreed upon prior to the MSC launch and communicated in that document.
- 9) Pages 4-7 Appendices A, B: Although not changed from the previous version, the following dates are problematic as they are immediately prior to summer or holiday breaks, making it difficult for parents and school bodies to gather resources to respond effectively. We would want all stakeholders to be given equal and adequate time and resources to put together their responses.

Schedule A:

June 30th for final decisions on levels of instruction.

Schedule B:

June 30th for adopting a motion to close a school.

December 22nd for final decision to close a school.

Respectfully submitted, as unanimously approved by the Lakeside Academy Governing Board, at our meeting of April 16th, 2019.

Karen Bleakley

Chair, Governing Board
Lakeside Academy



April 17th, 2019

Secretary General

Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925 Brookdale Avenue
Dorval, QC
H9P 2Y7

RE: Consultation on Policy on Major School Change

Dear Me. Geneviève Dugré,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation process on the Policy on Major School Change.

As the Governing Board of Lindsay Place High School we agree on the following proposed revisions to the policy:

- Shortened time frame changed to a one year consultation process
- The LBPSB presents description and strategies for changes to the academic institution undergoing MSC
- LPHS GB appreciates the focused process and the clear communication (announced at the beginning of the consultation period) with respect to which schools are at risk and will be involved in the MSC process

The MSC process is complicated in nature. However, the Governing Board of LPHS believes in our school due to the quality of enriched academics, the creative and talented arts departments, and the outstanding athletics and co-curricular activities which will be reflected in any consultation that may be required for our school.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Shaughnessy".

Karen Tara Shaughnessy
Governing Board Chair
Lindsay Place High School

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</u> <u>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



Wednesday April 17, 2019

Me. Geneviève Dugré
Secretary General
Lester B. Pearson School Board
1925 Brookdale Avenue
Dorval, QC H9P 2Y7

Subject: Major School Change Consultation Policy

Dear Me. Dugré,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this consultation. We'd like to highlight a few points that we feel would impact all students, but particularly those with special needs:

1. Closure of a school
 - This is obviously a difficult situation for any student, parent or staff member to live through but it is especially hard for children with special needs. Transitions are extremely difficult for these children and having to start over, somewhere new, can be challenging. The timing of the notice has shortened (18 months to 12 months) so we would like to recommend that the board pay particular attention to the special needs population at the school that is closing and ensure that additional resources are put into place to support their transition. SNAC would also recommend that parents of students in the affected school be informed as early as possible (email, ERMS) so that they have the necessary time to work with the team at the school to develop and implement a transition plan for their child.



2. Changes to the level of instruction provided by a school and/or changes to cycles or parts of cycles of the level of instruction of a school
 - Parents or guardians with children starting at a new school may not be aware that the school they registered their child in may be changed before the beginning of the school year. In particular, a parent of a child with special needs may have registered their child at a particular school based on its size and/or program. We should not leave them vulnerable for a “surprise” when the school year begins and it may be too late to make alternative arrangements. SNAC recommends that communication be sent to any new parents/guardians with children starting at a school affected by a major school change.

On page 2 of the policy it lists the three ways in which the public notice will be published:

SNAC recommends that in addition to these three methods, the administration of the school(s) being directly affected should send an email to the parents / guardians of the children attending the school(s) in question. This would increase the chance that all families directly affected would have the opportunity to participate in the process if they were so inclined.

Respectfully,

Jennifer DiMarco - Chair
Special Needs Advisory Committee, 2018-2019
snac.lbpsb.qc.ca

From: [ST JOHN FISHER SENIOR Governing Board](#)
To: [Consultations](#)
Subject: Consultation Launch - Policy on Major School Change
Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019 11:32:12 AM

Hello,

The present is to inform you that the St. John Fisher (Sr) Governing Board does not have any comments on the above-cited consultation.

Regards,

Balgovind Pande
Chairperson - Governing Board
St. John Fisher Senior Elementary School

From: [Sophie-Lyne Paré](#)
To: [Consultations](#)
Cc: [Carmela di Iorio](#); [TERRY FOX Governing Board](#)
Subject: Consultation regarding the Policy on Major School Change
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:18:32 AM

Good morning,

After review and discussion, please note that Terry Fox does not have any changes or recommendations regarding the draft of the Policy on Major School Change - A policy on the distribution of services.

Regards,

Sophie-Lyne

Terry Fox Governing Board Chair