



Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Equity and Inclusivity Task Force (TF) of the Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB)

**Held on-line**

18 Sep. 2020

Chaired by Dr. Myrna Lashley

Present:

Andrew Henry  
Carol James  
Colin Jamieson  
Felix Robitaille  
Finn Poirier  
Kemba Mitchell  
Lisa Davis Mancini  
Matthew Pike  
Natalie Constant  
Nimalan Yoganathan  
Sabi Hinkson  
Sharad Bhargava  
Shari Waldrich  
Thomas Rhymes  
Wusua Mitchell

Regrets:

Fariha NaqviMohamed

Absent:

Chadwick Cowie  
Khobee Gibson,  
Tiffany Callender

The chair called the meeting to order at 19:30

The chair welcomed the members and invited them to introduce themselves.

The chair informed the TF that the verbal report agreed upon at the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was given to the Board and well-received.

The chair informed members that they should feel free to communicate with members of the LBPSB in order to obtain documents or information in order to fulfill their role. However, the chair asked that she be cc'd on such communication in order to be kept abreast of on-goings. In that manner, she would be able to address any issues which may arise. Furthermore, it would reduce the probabilities of duplication of efforts.

The chair invited Administrator Tom Rhymes to update the TF on the document which will be used as a foundation for some overall improvements at the School Board.

The Board is working on the anti-racist message for the civics assembly and has identified some immediate actions that could be pursued. Bias training for the LBPSB administrators, which will be delivered by the Canadian Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI), is scheduled for an executive “boot camp” tentatively scheduled for the end of October or November. This is seen as a necessary first step for our Senior Administrators.

The Pearson Teachers Union PTU is creating a collaborative committee with the Educational Service Department to discuss learning materials that can be used with the curriculum. There is a teacher in the committee which is composing a mandate for the group, which will be shared once it becomes available. There are approximately forty teachers who stepped up to participate in this group.

The chair informed the TF of the connection between the work of the TF and that of the Polarization Committee which is run by Dr. Cecile Rousseau out of the CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. The role of the Polarization Committee is to enter schools upon invitation and work towards eliminating polarization within that school. The TF is not focusing on individual schools, rather the focus is on the School Board.

Mr. Sharad Bhargava informed the TF of the work of the Intercultural Committee and the need for the TF and the Committee to work together to avoid duplication. There was no dissension to this suggestion.

A discussion concerning which areas would be the main focus of the work of the TF ensued. The final determinations were the following:

**Race and Ethnicities; Religions; Sexualities; Abilities; and Genders.**

The chair undertook to contact members during the week to enquire after members' group preferences and the assigning of group leaders. It was agreed that to avoid any appearance of the TF being an instrument of the School Board, each leader would be an external member.

The chair informed the members that the contents and results of the first two meetings would form the first written report to the School Board.

Members agreed that the meetings could commence at 19:00 and end at 21:00 in order to provide more time for discussion and deliberation.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00