



September 28, 2020

Lester B. Pearson School Board Task Force Report

To date, the TF has met on two occasions. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, all meetings to date have been held online using Zoom technology.

At the first meeting held on 21 Aug 2020, the ground rules and parameters of the process were established. They are:

Members' confidentiality will be respected at all times.

Only the chair has been provided with the authority to speak to the press, and others, on behalf of the TF;

There will be sub-committees to look into specific issues. Those sub-committees will be led by external members of the TF;

Although all issues will be discussed collectively, members are expected to always present the perspectives of the group(s) they represent, particularly in the creation of recommendations. In this manner, we can maintain focus on the inclusive nature of our deliberations and outcome. It will also assist in the creation of a comprehensive report.

All recommendations will be evidenced-based, and such evidence will be cited and appropriately referenced. Non-evidenced-based recommendations which, by general consensus, are deemed to be valid will be placed in an addendum.

Territorial Demographics:

Data from the 2016 Canadian Census indicating the ethnic and sexualities breakdowns on the territory served by the LBPSB were extracted and have already been presented to the Board. We acknowledge that the data does not indicate which children are actually students of the LBPSB as some will be served by the French and private schools' systems. Nonetheless, it is obvious that some of the children and their families will be clients of the LBPSB. Thus, this knowledge serves as a reminder that all pedagogical instructions including lessons, utterances, demonstrations, plans, explanations, interactions, games, etc., must actively take this reality into consideration and incorporate it into proposed inputs and outputs.

Similar data are being gathered for intellectual and physically challenged individuals; and Indigenous peoples.

Public Involvement:

The participation of the public will be solicited. It was determined that a call will be made to the parents of current and past students to acquaint the TF with issues – both negative and positive – which their children encountered while attending schools under the jurisdiction of Lester B. Pearson School Board (LBPSB). In addition to parents' stories, they will be asked to make recommendations to remedy negative situations they highlight and/or support positive observations.

The nature of the solicitation is yet to be decided. Some possibilities are to advertise the call on the website of the TF, once it has been established; on the Chair's radio and television appearances; through word-of-mouth by TF members; and, through members of the Board making.

Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Katie Arless is providing administrative support to the TF.

Ms. Arless has created a Google drive on which documents and academic literature are stored and to which all members have access.

Website:

The website of the TF is under construction and the Board will be informed as soon as it is completed. The website will be used to communicate information to the general public. In addition, the agendas and minutes of meetings will be posted to the website.

Sub-Committees:

In order to provide as comprehensive a report as possible, in the time available, five Sub-Committees were created: *Race and Ethnicities*; *Religion*; *Sexualities*; *Abilities*; and *Genders*.

Here are the members of each group and their leaders:

Race and Ethnicities: Tiffany Callender (Leader), Chadwick Cowie, Carol James, Matthew Pike

Religions: Fariha Naqvi-Mohamed (Leader), Andrew Henry, Sharad Bhargava, Nimalan Yoganathan

Sexualities: Félix Robitaille (Leader), Finn Poirier, Khobee Gibson, Shari Waldrich

Abilities: Colin Jamieson (Leader), Natalie Constant, Wusua Mitchell, Lisa Davis Mancini

Genders: Kemba Michell (Leader), Tom Rhymes, Sabi Hinkson.

It is the responsibility of the group leaders to call meetings and provide the Chair with a report every two weeks. This will be in addition to attending regular TF meetings. As the subgroups begin their work, it is anticipated that general TF meetings will be reduced. Notwithstanding, other meetings will be convened if needed.

Evaluators:

A cohort of focus group evaluators will be created. The cohort will evaluate the sub-reports as well as the final report of the TF and provide feedback as it is important to receive the impressions of those not involved with the process. In this manner, we hope to produce a more fulsome report and to promote public buy-in of the work of the TF.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from Enrico Ciccone, MNA for Marquette, offering congratulations on the establishment and work of the TF.

We have already received some parents' letters and a CBC radio recording of a 10-year-old LBPSB student

Upcoming Overall Next Steps:

Creating an overarching work plan;

Creation of a roadmap and Timeline.

Groups starting their work

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Lashley" followed by a horizontal dash.

Dr. Myrna Lashley

Chair, Task Force on Equality and Inclusivity, LBPSB Attachment:

Letter from MNA