

November 13, 2019

**Lester B. Pearson School Board  
Council of Commissioners**

1925 Ave Brookdale

Dorval, QC H9P 2Y7

By email: consultations@lbpsb.qc.ca

Members of the Council of Commissioners,

In response to the Major School Change ("MSC") consultation invitation extended by LBPSB the Governing Board of Sherbrooke Academy Senior Campus would like to make several recommendations with respect to the two scenarios laid out in the MSC proposal, in particular with respect to the possible relocation of St. Thomas High School to the location presently housing Lindsey Place High School (Scenario B on page 43 of the MSC Document).

The Governing Board would like to express its recommendation to keep St. Thomas High School in its current location and under its current form. The students of Lindsay Place would remain in their building as well and to optimize the utilization of the Lindsay Place building, the Adult Education students can be transferred to Lindsay Place building (this is Scenario A on page 43 of the MSC Document).

As a result, the School Board could transfer the Allcroft and Cartier Place buildings to the French School Board, which alleviates the pressure on the increasing population on the French schools in our neighbourhood.

Many of our students choose St. Thomas for the IB and immersion programs as well as the proximity of the school to their homes and we feel strongly that this should remain an option for our school community. A significant number of parents with children in Sherbrooke Academy Senior Campus also have children in St. Thomas High School, both in the IB program or the Immersion program. As became clear during the St. Thomas Town Hall meeting on 25 September 2019, there is a strong desire among the St. Thomas community (parents, students and staff) to keep St. Thomas High School in its current location with both the IB and the Immersion program. The Governing Board of Sherbrooke Academy Senior supports this point of view.

In case St. Thomas would relocate to the building of Lindsay Place High School (Scenario B in the MSC document), the students of the Immersion program would be re-distributed, which could impact nearly 600 students of St. Thomas High School (MSC document, page 32). We appreciate the consideration of the School Board that Lindsay Place building has better facilities (e.g. gymnasiums, auditorium) but as parents we feel that the disruption caused by the relocation of St. Thomas would outweigh the benefits of the better facilities.

In case the Board is of the opinion that the relocation of St. Thomas is unavoidable to ensure the viability of its high school network, we would like to bring the following points to the attention of the Council:

- I. Move the St. Thomas IB program into the current Lindsay Place Facility. It is important that the staff who are part of the IB program, be moved “as a whole” with the IB students into the Lindsay Place location, thus ensuring not only the continuity of the program, but the stability of the program as well. We feel that the teachers in the program are critical to the current and future success of the IB program, and to move the program without them would significantly diminish the program.
- II. Many parents will send a non-IB child to the Immersion Program of St. Thomas because they already have children in the same school. We therefore request that, exceptionally, any current and future non-IB student, who is a sibling of an IB program student should be given priority consideration with respect to attending school in same location as where the St. Thomas IB Program will be located. It is hoped that this will minimize the inconvenience for families who may otherwise have children attending different high schools (and possible different school times) as a result of a decision taken by the Council.
- III. That the open zone policy, which has been a hallmark of the LBPSB for many years remain in force indefinitely, thus continuing to give parents and families the flexibility to choose the school and program which best suits the needs of their children.
- IV. Careful consideration needs to be given with respect to the expansion and redistribution of the busing zones which currently serve St. Thomas, BHS, Lindsey Place and PCHS, in order to ensure that our student community transitioning to High School are not forced to spend a significant amount of additional time on the bus as a result of these changes.
- V. Finally, we feel that the Council needs to ensure that they are doing all they can in order to minimize disruptions to, and possible relocation of, students who are currently housed in the Lindsey Place High School building.

We thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present our comments.

Robert Craft  
Chair Sherbrooke Senior Academy Governing Board