

Teenager arrested in connection with gun scare near Lester B. Pearson High School

Fight between students and a non-student forced administrators to lock down school

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Lester B Pearson school in Montreal North. *PIERRE OBENDRAUF / MONTREAL GAZETTE FILES*

A 17-year-old has been arrested in connection with a gun scare that caused administrators at Lester B.

Pearson High School in Montreal North to lock down their building Thursday afternoon.

The incident occurred after several students told school officials they were involved in an altercation with a non-student during their lunch break. The students said they were having pizza at a restaurant a few blocks from the school when the argument broke out. They said the young man pulled out a weapon that looked like a gun or a BB gun and threatened them.

The students ran back to school and told their principal, English Montreal School Board spokesman Mike Cohen said. Administrators decided to lock down the school to make sure no one could enter or exit. Police were called to secure the exits and patrol the school area to make sure no individuals from outside the school were coming to attack students.

The suspect was arrested overnight Thursday and will likely face firearms related charges, Montreal police spokesperson Raphaël Bergeron said.

“What we did today was to send in a trauma team that is trained to deal with cases like this,” Cohen said. “A lot of students were shaken up and needed experts to talk to.”

Cohen said there was a strong police presence at the school on Friday, and it will likely continue next week.

“We are encouraging students to go about their normal routine. It was a very unfortunate and very frightening incident.”

Principal Steven Rebelo sent a letter to parents advising them the suspect had been arrested and that the police will continue their patrols.

“We would like to thank the police for their quick action and we wish to reassure everyone that the safety of our students and staff remains paramount,” he wrote.

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