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LBPSB Parents' Committee  
Dorval, QC

April 19, 2021

Me. Geneviève Dugré  
1925 Avenue Brookdale  
Dorval, QC H9P 2Y7

Re: 2021-2022 Budget Consultation

Dear Me. Geneviève Dugré,

Please accept the attached document as the official response of the LBPSB Parents' Committee to the 2021-2022 Budget Consultation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shane Ross', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shane Ross  
Chair, LBPSB Parents' Committee

## 2021-2022 Budget Consultation Response

**Question 1:** What is your relationship to the Lester B. Pearson School Board?

Parents' Committee

**Question 2:** Do you have any suggestions regarding objectives, principles or criteria used to govern the allocation of funds?

1. Allocation of funds should be equitable based on the best interests of all students across the School Board.
  - a. Socio-community wellbeing is significant right now and will continue to be fragile as society re-establishes itself after the pandemic.
2. Integration of technology
  - a. Increase and diversify digital libraries to support hybrid and independent learning opportunities and study skills.
  - b. Online/digital physical education programs (at home and independent learning).
  - c. Education or professional development for all stakeholders in reference to online/digital learning.
3. Expenses related to pedagogy
  - a. Smaller class sizes and groupings to support learning delays, students at risk, and special education needs.
  - b. Stakeholder wellness and professional development.
  - c. SEL and sociocultural learning theory.
4. Maintenance of facilities and equipment
  - a. Green energy generation, management, and materials technologies.

**Question 3:** To help us further support our students' success, in your opinion, which of the following resources and programs are essential to supporting high levels of student achievement?

1. Greater focus on Science and Technology
2. Early literacy
3. French language programs
  - Including extracurricular programs
4. Experiential learning
  - Natural learning, science and environmental education
5. Renewed Math Strategy
6. Staff Training
7. Special education programming
8. Integration of Technology

**Question 4:** The school board's priority is to maintain buildings in the best condition that is possible within the budgets provided by the Ministry of Education. If there are surplus funds available please choose the school and/or center building component that you believe requires the most service, maintenance or replacement.

- Consider future-proofing buildings such as solar panels, LED lighting, ventilation, rain water systems, green roofs, etc.
- Interior upgrades – clean, functional washrooms in all schools.
- Grounds maintenance, exterior work – ensure all buildings and playgrounds are wheelchair accessible.
- Continue what is necessary to reduce our carbon footprint and to keep cool during the hotter months of August, September, May, June and July.

The Parents' Committee suggests that the Board implement:

- A long-term environmental sustainability plan and allocate more resources to it.
- New guidelines that will help reduce the use of single use plastic and polystyrenes and to allocate resources to aid in the transition to green for both staff and school kitchens.
- Air conditioning systems in the areas where the average indoor temperature rises over 25 degrees Celsius.
- Rooftop gardens or solar panels on buildings that can support these infrastructures.
- Green building maintenance initiatives where possible and to partake in green initiatives like The Greenest School in Canada Competition
- These funds should not be reallocated funds that are already part of the existing MEES budgets, new funds should be allocated.

**Question 5:** In light of upcoming budget compressions, do you have suggestions for cost savings throughout the school board?

The Parent Committee suggests that the Board:

- Offer on-line option courses to high school students to give a wider choice of courses
- Develop an all-encompassing comprehensive online curriculum
- Continue to host hybrid learning opportunities.
- Continue to host virtual events (fairs, teacher, administrative, leadership training - rethink the design of travel and communication for the board).
- Continue to maximize use of existing digital infrastructure (Google) and communication tools for all stakeholders.
- Continue to implement long-term building and maintenance greening to reduce energy costs and help reduce the temperatures in and around our buildings.

### Question 6: Other Comments or Suggestions.

- Increase and diversify digital libraries to support hybrid and independent learning opportunities, and study skills.
- Offer one month subsidized (web-based/hybrid) summer school available to all high school, and cycle 2 and 3 elementary school students.
- Implement study and organizational skills development programs in elementary schools.
- Offer personalized learning plans for all students in high school.
- Increase cultural and diversity awareness - sensitivity education.
- Invest in empowering Governing Boards through mandatory training for all GB members (parents, staff, and, where applicable, students).
- Commission a report on Determining the Carbon Footprint of the School Board.
- Innovative physical education and extracurricular programs - online and personal and group technology.
- Provide immersive learning experiences as much as possible.
- Global education, intercultural and language socio-community integration programs.
- More resources to empower students for Life Long Learning by teaching them the skills on how to learn. This free Coursera course has several tools on learning. <https://www.coursera.org/learn/learning-how-to-learn>
- Increase Mental Health/wellness initiatives for all stakeholders.
- Allocate resources to implement recommendations coming from the Taskforce on Equity and Diversity.
- We want the school board to ask the bus carriers to take advantage of the funding provided by the Quebec Government's 2030 Plan for a Green Economy to transition to using Electric buses. This would reduce pollution and the carbon footprint of the school board.
- The next food contract should have provisions to eliminate **ALL** non-recyclable/non-compostable packaging, containers and cutlery.
- A plan to transition all High School cafeterias to have dishwashers and reusable plates and cutlery.
- Increase number of K4 classes offered if feasible.
- Take measures to decrease the success rate gap between Girls and Boys.

## **After the COVID-19 crisis**

### **GREENING our Environments**

Our future depends on protecting the health and wellbeing of our children and the planet. It is necessary to educate new generations and help students develop the knowledge and skills to navigate through a greener society.

The Parent Committee suggests that the Board:

- Broaden school composting and recycling programs.
- Increase environmental experiential learning opportunities.
- Continues to support the creation of school community gardens and indoor food growing systems.
- Continue to seek ways to reduce waste and offset the carbon emissions of operations.
- Work with CEGEPs, Universities, and governments, to develop environmental educational programs and operational strategies that target National standards.
- Support sustainable food programs, especially in schools in lower socio-economic areas.

### **Physical Activity, Mental and Social Health, Community Wellbeing**

As a modern society, we have the knowledge and experience to manage healthy habits, lifestyles and attitudes towards all. We are living in situations that we have never experienced before. Stress, anxiety, and the unknown are constant pressures and need to remain positive, supportive, collaborative, and kind.

The Parent Committee suggests that the Board implement:

- Long-term resilience training, mental and physical fitness, and mindfulness and physical activity.
- Social emotional learning and socio-cultural sensitivity training for all stakeholders.

Continue large-scale collaborative activities that encourage cultural diversity, social awareness, communication and mental health.