



*St. Thomas High School  
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Pointe Claire, March 26, 2021.

Me Geneviève Dugré, Secretary General  
Lester B Pearson School Board  
1925 Brookdale Avenue Dorval, Québec, H9P 2Y7  
gdugre@lbsb.qc.ca

Subject: Response to the Budget 2021-2022 Consultation

Dear Me Dugré,

On behalf of St-Thomas Governing Board, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Budget Consultation.

This document was discussed at our GB meeting held on February 17, 2021 and approved on March 24. Below is our response to each of the questions outlined in the consultation document. We do, however, feel that the options presented to us by the board are vaguely worded and could be interpreted in many different ways. The options that you provide in this document would benefit greatly from providing clear examples or context.

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

- 1- Governing Board

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

1. Pedagogical expenses must be a top priority
2. Maintain as a guiding principle the streamlining of expenses on non-pedagogical items
3. Maintain all equipment related to pedagogical purposes in good repair or to replace as needed.
4. Allocation of funds should reflect environmental sustainability and eco-friendly processes.

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

We feel all of these resources and programs are essential (in no particular order).

Examples of each point would have been appreciated, as the wording is vague and subject to interpretation.

1. Early Literacy Intervention (and sustained promotion of literacy for high school students)
2. Renewed Math Strategy (as for other courses as well)
3. French programming
4. Staff training
5. Experiential Learning
6. Special Education programming
7. Integration of Technology (digital competency)

**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 centre building component(s) that you believe requires the most service, maintenance or replacement.**

We feel that all of the answer options listed (ie: Classroom furniture, flooring, painting, lighting, grounds maintenance, exterior work, interior upgrade) are important. We would also like to add air conditioning, heating, water upgrades (ie: reduction of lead and other impurities in the water system) and increasing security in schools. Gyms should also be maintained, especially in consideration of rentals. Renovations that respect environmental standards should also be prioritized.

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

If we are given the opportunity to access budgetary documents from a board level, it would help us to answer this question properly. Schools are already cash-strapped so it is very difficult to pinpoint savings that will not negatively affect the students and their learning.

We suggest that savings may be found on an infrastructural or administrative level. We believe that cuts in bureaucratic or social expenses used at the Board level is preferable over expenses related to learning. For example, future use of remote access for administrative meetings, avoiding travel unless necessary, emphasizing online conferences and cutting back on bussing to events (ie: career fair) can all reduce expenses.

### **Question 6: other comments/suggestions**

We feel that it is important to increase funding to improve communication, marketing and promotion of schools to attract students to the Lester B. Pearson School Board.

As per the LBPSB annual reports, we also believe that more initiatives focused on improving wellness and engagements in the schools should be implemented. There is a clear need to improve the outcomes as indicated in these annual reports.

In addition to the current curriculum, there should be budgetary allocations dedicated to teaching students how to learn and to promote study skills for the long term.

St Thomas High School also recommends that the school board makes a formal request of their associated bus carriers to take advantage of the funding provided by the Quebec Government's 2030 Plan for a Green Economy to transition to the use of Electric buses. This would reduce pollution and the carbon footprint of not only our own school but of the LSPSB as a whole.

As previously mentioned, please provide additional clarity and description for the choices presented in this consultation as GBs, which include members who are unfamiliar with the terminology, are expected to evaluate points that are open to interpretation.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process.

Respectfully,



Celena Scheede-Bergdahl  
Chair, St Thomas High School  
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