



2021-2022 Budget Questions and Answers



Our school completed the 2021-2022 Budget Consultation and made several recommendations. What was done with our response?



Responses were studied and consolidated in order to determine common themes, concerns and suggestions. These documents were shared with the audit committee, administration and further discussed with the Council of Commissioners during budget workshops.

The Council of Commissioners of the Lester B. Pearson School Board reviewed and considered all the responses prior to approving the 2021-2022 budget.

Responses to the budget consultation can be viewed on the Lester B. Pearson School Board website under Council of Commissioners, Consultations, Budget Consultation 2021-2022.

[LBPSB 2021-2022 Budget Consultation](#) 

[Responses to 2021-2022 LBPSB Budget Consultation](#) 



What are the changes between the 2021-2022 budget and the 2020-2021 budget?



The following are some of the changes between the 2021-2022 and 2020-2021 School Board budgets.

- An additional \$1.3 million in direct services to students;
- An additional \$700,000 in funding for students with special needs;
- An additional \$140,000 for safe and active elementary school yards;
- \$ 2.6 million to offer extracurricular activities at the secondary level. The grant for secondary extracurricular activities is to encourage students to develop a sense of belonging at school while developing new skills in sports, arts and cultural activities, robotics, socio education, science activities and community involvement.

Plus investments of:

- Over \$9 million in renovations to the St-Thomas building located at 111 Broadview Avenue in Pointe-Claire. Upgrades and addition of science labs to the school, replacement of part of the ventilation system, upgrade to fire evacuation zones, repaving of parking lot with drainage, renovation of remaining bathrooms, full renovation of locker rooms, weight room and creation of dance-yoga studio;
- Over \$10 million in renovations to the Adult- Vocational building located at 120 Ambassador in Pointe-Claire. Optimize classroom space for adult and vocational programming, upgrade main electrical entrance to accept vocational programming, building envelope and roof work, building enhancements to facilitate additional special needs students;
- Over \$10 million in bathroom upgrades and interior renovations to Christmas Park, St-Charles, Sunshine and Wilder Penfield elementary schools;
- Over \$4 million in paving and interior work at John Rennie High School;
- Over \$3 million in plumbing and interior upgrades in Pearson Adult and Career Centre;
- Over \$1.5 million in paving and improved drainage at Pierrefonds Community High School;
- Over \$1.5 million in bathroom and interior renovations at Westwood Senior High School.



Why doesn't the School Board increase the amount of integration aids, psychologists, speech therapists and other professionals in schools?



Funding for support services to students comes directly from the Quebec government.

During the past few years, the ministry has decentralized additional funding to schools and created a grant of \$7.4 million for direct support to students for the 2021-2022 school year. With 47 elementary and secondary schools and 20,000 students, this amounts to approximately \$370 a student or \$157,000 a school for the equivalent of an additional resource teacher or professional and a part time integration aid or librarian. The additional funding is greatly appreciated but does not satisfy all our student needs throughout the system. Principals and teachers work with the student services team to determine how to best use their resources.



Will additional resources be allocated to address mental health?



- The government has provided additional funding to the health services network to work with School Boards. New funds allocated directly to Direction Regional Santé Publique (DRSP) to provide mental health and addiction prevention services in our schools for the next 3 years: \$456,000 for YMCA project – 6 drug educators and a coordinator will provide intensive direct services to students in all on-island high schools. \$48,000 to support the development of mental health tools and resources to implement socio-emotional learning in high schools & 2 professionals from the DRSP assigned to LBPSB schools to support the implementation of mental health projects;
- Increase in number of Student Services Department professionals working with vulnerable students and their families as well as providing support to staff in the areas of mental health and social-emotional learning;
- Additional training socio-emotional learning concepts have been integrated into workshops provided to teachers, integration aids, techs, and daycare educators.



What support will be provided to address the gaps in learning caused by the pandemic?



Consultants are supporting teachers in addressing learning gaps by:

- Providing workshops to support inclusive classrooms;
- Providing workshops to support online learning;
- Providing workshops to support student assessment;
- Providing one on one support to teachers via Zoom;
- Creating and finding resources for teachers;
- Developing learning priorities guides;
- Afterschool tutoring will be available in high schools;
- Elementary schools will be offering homework assistance;
- \$1 million extra (M15021) for extra resources (came from MEQ after adoption of Budget)



What is the School Board doing to support early literacy intervention?



- The Educational Services Department (ESD) has a consultant who works strictly on early literacy along with a team of 3 consultants who support her.
 - This team has provided many workshops and give individual support to many teachers in our system on a regular basis;
- ESD has put aside approximately \$30,000 for the purpose of supporting teachers with early literacy this year;
- Collaborative work with Speech and Language Pathologists in schools to promote and develop a structured literacy approach and support the teachers in their implementation of this practice.



Is there any additional funding for schools with lower success rates?



The ministry provides funding for smaller class sizes and additional resources through different grants in the budget for schools connected with socio-economic levels which frequently correlate with lower success rates. Budget rules require this funding to be decentralized to the schools for local decision making.

The School Board provides additional resource support to schools with lower success rates.

- Educational Services and Student Services professionals provide targeted support to these schools in early literacy and early numeracy;
- Early screening by Speech and Language Pathologists to support early and targeted resource interventions.



What has the School Board been doing to support technology in the classroom?



The ministry of education has provided additional funding of \$5.9 million during 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 to support online learning and technology in classrooms. Schools spent most of these funds on purchasing chromebooks and iPads, teacher laptops and many peripheral devices to enhance online learning such as webcams, headsets and document cameras. Schools continue to upgrade existing technology including interactive flat panel TVs, and robotic materials. The School Board invested in upgrading school infrastructure to ensure proper internet security, stability, and bandwidth as well as Wi-Fi coverage to support the additional classroom materials.



What is the Board doing to support a green environment?



The ministry of education has created a new grant to promote climate change awareness in students 15 and over. A maximum amount of \$5,000 per school is available. We have encouraged our secondary schools to apply for this funding.

On September 21, 2020 the School Board adopted the Environmental and Sustainability Policy.

LBPSB Environmental & Sustainability Policy Sept 2020 

Other ongoing School Board initiatives include:

- Installing low flush toilets and urinals;
- Replacing lights with energy efficient LED lights;
- Upgrading of parking lots to include rainwater retention tanks and green islands;
- Replacement of water-cooled compressors (walk in refrigerators) to electric air cooled to conserve water;
- Pilot projects in cafeterias have begun to replace single use dishes and cutlery with reusable tableware;
- The School Board continues with the use of mass messaging to reduce the use of paper in our buildings. Report cards, daycare and lunchtime fees and school fees are available online. The School Board is in the third year of online payments for school fees and plans on having this type of payment available for all schools by the end of 2021-2022;
- The School Board has increased the amount of water bottle filling stations in schools and centers to encourage healthy habits while reducing the amount of single use plastic bottles used in our buildings.



Are the Board's financial records audited by the Quebec government?



Quebec School Boards are audited twice a year. As the provincial government year-end is March 31st, School Boards are required to close their books to have their financial records integrated into the province's financial statements. Independent auditors are hired to apply the audit procedures specified in the *"Mandat de verification externe pour l'exercice financier 2021-2022 – Commission scolaires"*.

Independent auditors audit the financial statements of the Board as of June 30th, and the statement of earnings, the statement of accumulated surplus (deficit), the statement of changes in net financial assets (net debt) and the statement of cash flows for the year ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. Their responsibility includes expressing an opinion on the financial statements based upon the audit which is conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards.

Since the inception of the Board, the opinion of the independent auditors is that the financial statements of the Lester B. Pearson School Board present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position.

The Lester B. Pearson School Board financial statements are available online at:

<https://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/services/financial-statements-budgets> 



Why doesn't the Board reduce elementary and secondary class sizes?



Class sizes are determined by the Quebec government which finances teachers' salaries based upon the defined class ratios. A reduction of 2-3 students per class would require an additional \$13,500,000 in teacher expenses and additional schools would need to be built for the additional classrooms. The provincial class ratios are indicated below.

	Average	Maximum
Elementary Schools		
4-year-old kindergarten	14	17
5-year-old kindergarten	17	19
Grade 1	20	22
Grade 2	22	24
Grade 3	24	26
Grade 4	24	26
Grade 5	24	26
Grade 6	24	26
Secondary Schools		
Secondary 1	26	28
Secondary 2	27	29
Secondary 3	30	32
Secondary 4	30	32
Secondary 5	30	32



What is the Lester B. Pearson School Board's annual budget? What is the breakdown for revenue and expenditures?



The Lester B. Pearson School Board presented a balanced budget for the 2021-2022 school year of \$325,720,810 in revenues, and \$325,720,810 in expenses.

Commission Scolaire Lester B. Pearson School Board

Budget 2021 - 2022: Revenue & Expense Summary for the period ending June 30th

	2020-2021 Budget \$	2021-2022 Budget \$	Variance Budget 21-22 vs 20-21 \$
Revenues:			
MELS operating grants	\$ 216,458,675	\$ 228,246,291	\$ 11,787,616
Other grants	\$ 2,830,336	\$ 1,850,046	\$ (980,290)
School taxes	\$ 62,650,995	\$ 62,420,806	\$ (230,189)
Other operating revenues	\$ 27,703,900	\$ 26,548,939	\$ (1,154,961)
Transportation grants	\$ 8,250,899	\$ 6,654,728	\$ (1,596,171)
Total revenues	\$ 317,894,805	\$ 325,720,810	\$ 7,826,005
Expenditures:			
Teaching services	\$ 149,081,179	\$ 155,925,135	\$ 6,843,956
Educational support	\$ 78,542,515	\$ 75,655,643	\$ (2,886,872)
Extracurricular activities	\$ 13,175,549	\$ 13,825,279	\$ 649,730
Transportation	\$ 14,711,056	\$ 14,757,732	\$ 46,676
Administrative activities	\$ 13,112,232	\$ 14,203,702	\$ 1,091,470
Energy	\$ 5,065,000	\$ 4,690,000	\$ (375,000)
Amortization of property and equipment	\$ 14,724,010	\$ 17,878,364	\$ 3,154,354
Maintenance and caretaking	\$ 15,117,952	\$ 16,150,029	\$ 1,032,077
Financing costs	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -
Subsidized schools in the public interest	\$ 11,334,976	\$ 11,333,021	\$ (1,955)
Other	\$ 2,830,336	\$ 1,101,905	\$ (1,728,431)
Total expenditures	\$ 317,894,805	\$ 325,720,810	\$ 7,826,005
Net results of the year	\$ -	\$ -	

