



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

Bureau du Président
Office of the Chairman

Montreal, March 12, 2026

Ms. Stephanie Passucci
Treasurer
English Montreal School Board Parents' Committee

Dear Ms. Passucci,

Thank you for your letter dated January 14, 2026. The EMSB remains fully committed to transparency and to ensuring that all stakeholders, including parents, have the information needed to understand the severe constraints imposed on our operations by the provincial government's budgetary measures.

As outlined in our public statements and Council resolutions, the 2025-2026 fiscal framework has been profoundly disrupted by directives from the *Ministère de l'Éducation*. Key elements include:

- A mandated reduction of approximately \$10.6 million under measure 16032.
- A potential additional \$10.4 million financial penalty under measure 16034 if unrealistic staffing reduction targets are not met (a target the EMSB has consistently stated is unachievable without violating collective agreements and operational necessities).
- Prohibition on accessing accumulated surplus funds (approximately \$7.8 million for the EMSB), which had previously supported essential services such as special needs support, mental health resources, and extracurricular activities.
- Conditional offset funding of \$9.6 million under measure 16036, tied to conditions that the Board could not realistically satisfy, leaving us exposed to the full impact of the above reductions.

These measures, part of the province's broader education funding restrictions (initially in the range of \$510–570 million province-wide, with partial and conditional adjustments), have forced unavoidable operational adjustments across the Board. Reductions have focused on administrative efficiencies, non-salary expenditures, and support areas to limit direct impacts on classrooms as much as possible. However, effects at the school level have included reduced support staffing in some locations, constraints on extracurricular programming, and limitations on resource allocation.

Detailed budgets for each individual school have been provided to Governing Boards for their deliberations and approvals.

The reduction to the EMSBPC operational budget was necessary due to the overall fiscal pressures from the province. The Board had to carefully examine its options within the available constraints to address the impact on board operations as a whole and minimize disruption to essential student services. As such, difficult decisions needed to be made and the EMSBPC's budget was reduced but remains proportionally consistent with what the PCs of other school boards receive. If there are specific operational needs or areas where Board-level support could assist in maintaining essential activities, please provide details so we can assess feasibility.

The Governing Board budget process remains a priority, and we expect continued engagement from all parties to navigate these imposed limitations responsibly. The EMSB's position has been and continues to be one of firm opposition to these provincial measures, as evidenced by our public statements, requests for surplus access, and participation in the legal action of QESBA and its member boards.

We value the role of parent representatives in this process and look forward to constructive dialogue focused on protecting student interests under these difficult circumstances.

At this stage I cannot provide you with any precise details of what further budget reductions, if any, are in store for the system. Our management team has been in deliberations for several months and the Council of Commissioners are being briefed.

I can assure you that we will fulfil our duty of consulting with the EMSB Parents Committee when we proceed with our Budget Building Process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Ortona
Chairman
EMSB