

# Ministry formula turns deficit into surplus

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The Suburban

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Despite its adoption of a deficit budget in June, the English Montreal School Board EMSB has managed to balance its books using new education ministry rules that allow spending of accumulated surplus funds from previous years.

Board chair Angela Mancini noted that this allowed for new funds to be injected directly to schools and centres, an exercise that will be repeated in the coming months.

“Our primary objective is to decentralize funds to schools and centres, and allow administrators, staff and governing boards to decide where to allocate the funds in terms of materials, services, building renovation and educational projects,” she said. The position is much like

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the measures contained in the Quebec government's last and newest legislative attempts to reform school board governance.

Last year, each school and centre received \$20,000 for educational materials or renovations in their respective buildings including HVAC system cleaning; purchase of tools and specialized materials for vocational programs;

tutoring services for high school students; library books; and painting of 18 school buildings.

The St. Pius X Career Centre in Ahuntsic will also receive a \$5 million investment this year to accommodate its burgeoning culinary program. Bancroft Elementary in the Plateau, Westmount Park and Nesbitt in Rosemount will also benefit from major building renovations and upgrades. ■