

To: ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local Members
From: Craig Smith, President, ETFO Thames Valley Teacher Local (ETFO TVTL)
Date: November 15, 2024
Regarding: **Managing School Board Expenses and Prioritizing Student Safety**

Sent to Local Presidents on behalf of Sharon O'Halloran, General Secretary, ETFO Provincial:

Memorandum To: Chairs of District School Boards
Directors of Education
Secretary/Treasurer of School Authorities

From: The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Education

Date: November 14, 2024

Subject **Managing School Board Expenses and Prioritizing Student Safety**

Our government is making historic investments in public education, and parents expect school boards to be responsible stewards of those dollars to prioritize student achievement.

In light of recent events, I want to be absolutely clear: our investments are a commitment to strengthening our public education system and improving the student experience. To maintain public confidence in the education system, it is imperative that taxpayer dollars go towards supporting student achievement and better equipping teachers in the classroom, rather than being squandered on inappropriate expenditures.

As a result, we will be reviewing discretionary expenses and including them in our bi-annual disclosures of board financials enabled through Bill 98 to create more accountability and transparency.

Hard working taxpayers and parents deserve to know that the money the province is investing toward student education is going into the classroom, and school boards have a responsibility to act as responsible stewards of that funding. Trustees, directors of education and executive leaders play a critical role in managing school board expenses effectively by setting and adhering to robust policy frameworks and administrative procedures that prioritize value for money. By focusing on these principles, we can ensure that every dollar spent contributes to the success and well-being of our students and the integrity of our education system.

“The collective agreement is the rule book, not a guidebook.”

It is my expectation that trustees and school board executives lead by example, exercise sound judgement and champion fiscal responsibility. Such leadership is crucial in fostering a culture of accountability, ensuring that our resources are managed wisely so we can graduate the best and brightest students in the country.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Education

c: Denise A. Cole, Deputy Minister of Education
Didem Proulx, Assistant Deputy Minister, Capital and Business Support Division
Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour and Finance Division
Giselle Basanta, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Equity and Governance Secretariat
Scott Allinson, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
President, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
President, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
President, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA)
President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
President, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
President, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
President, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
President, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
Chair, Ontario Council of Education Workers (OCEW)
Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
President of OSBCU, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)

For more information regarding this *Communiqué* please contact the Local office by phone at 519-474-3150, or by email at etfotvtl@etfothamesvalley.com