



# News Release

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## **Surrey school board chairperson calls on education minister to apologize and correct budget misstatements**

Surrey school board chairperson Mary Polak says she's concerned that parents, staff and others may draw the wrong conclusions from current public discussions around whether school boards have a budget surplus or not.

In response to the Minister of Education's public comments and media reports concerning school district finances, the Surrey school board feels compelled to ensure there is no confusion or misunderstandings about the status of the Surrey school district budget.

"I am very concerned that the Minister is misstating facts about the budgets of school boards across the province and how our parents, teachers, support staff and other stakeholders will react to such misinformation," says Polak. "Education funding has not met the level required to deliver adequate education services for the last three years, so when the government later gives back a small portion of the necessary funding, it is ludicrous to say school districts now have a budget surplus.

"In Surrey, the money the minister refers to was spent on restoring planned service and staff cuts or allocated to cover learning resources like text books for the current school year," Polak adds. "The entire amount was accounted for in our audited financial statements released publicly in September. The minister ought to apologize and correct the record and trustees will be pursuing a letter asking her to do so at our board meeting on Thursday."

Surrey School District No. 36 (Surrey) financial statements are available through the school board office.

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