

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2019

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 12, 2019

The South District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2019/2020 Draft Budget Discussion

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide an overview of the 2019/2020 Draft Budget. The Committee was informed that on January 9, 2019, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The increase for all of Manitoba for 2019/2020 is 0.5% or \$6.6 million dollars. The Committee was informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division which is based on enrollment, equals a decrease of 0.1% or \$202,963 over last year's funding.

The Committee was informed that the Minister of Education encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2.0%. The Committee was informed that special requirement is based on the school year and property taxes are based on a calendar year. The Committee was informed that a 3.0% special requirement equals a 2.9% property tax increase or \$41 on average assessed home at \$214,200. The Committee was informed that the provincial funding for education is based on several factors including student enrolment, capital costs, equalization payments and the phase out of the Tax Incentive Grant.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is requesting feedback on the following budget additions: autism clinical psychologist, day program supports for students with exceptional needs, additional Early Childhood Inclusive Needs Support, Sound Field Systems, enhanced Wi-Fi, pilot video conference course, expanding Full Day Kindergarten programs, data analytics software, technology, school grounds maintenance and Lunch Program Coordinator.

The Committee was also informed that the Division provides many programs/services for students that are not provincially funded as follows: Intercultural Support Workers, Library Technical Assistants, Computer Technicians, Adult Crossing Guards, School Resource Officers, off campus programs, Home Learning Assistants for Early School Years, Library and Support Services, therapy services, summer school, nutrition programs, nursery, arts performances, special events and programs, milk subsidy, and Attendance Officers. These programs/services cost \$11,415,173 and are areas the Board of Trustees may have to find cost savings if required.

The Committee expressed concern that the wage freeze imposed on the Province of Manitoba may result in a decline of quality staff and classroom teachers within the Division.

The Committee agreed that should reductions be required to balance the budget, the expansion of Full Day Kindergarten sites, the sound field system, summer school, nursery, milk subsidies and attendance officers should be areas the Board may want to reconsider.

Overall, the Committee supported a 2.9% property tax increase in order to maintain programs and services. There was an overall agreement that more information is needed on programs/services not funded by the Province before prioritizing reductions or additions.

The Committee was informed that the Board continues to advocate on behalf of the Division to continue discussions with the Province and seek alternatives to education funding. The Committee was encouraged to contact their MLA, Premier or Minister of Education to share their opinions of education funding.

Respectfully Submitted,

JAMIE DUMONT
Trustee Representative

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IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Collège Churchill
Churchill High School
Earl Grey School
Gladstone School
Grant Park High School
Harrow School
J.B. Mitchell School
Kelvin High School
École LaVérendrye School
Queenston School
River Heights School
École Riverview School
Robert H. Smith School

Regrets:

Carpathia School
Grosvenor School
Montrose School

Administration:

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent
Julie Millar, Director of Student Services
Paul Kochan, Chief Financial Officer & Secretary-Treasurer
Susan Christiuk, Principal, Carpathia School
Ryan Hughes, Principal, Churchill High School
Cristina da Mata, Principal, Gladstone School
Maria Silva, Principal, Kelvin High School
Wade Gregg, Principal, Queenston School
Brad Burns, Principal, River Heights School,
Jude Guzzi, Vice-Principal, Riverview School
Andrea Powell, Principal, Robert H. Smith School
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Trustee Jamie Dumont
Trustee Mark Wasyliv
Trustee Linda Schatkowsky