

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – MARCH 1, 2017

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

As there were five voting representatives in attendance and six are required to form a quorum, the student representatives agreed to proceed with an informal meeting.

2. 2017/2018 DRAFT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Committee members were provided with an overview of the 2017/2018 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that Provincial funding for the Winnipeg School Division for 2017/2018 increased by \$2.6 million, or 1.4%, over the 2016/2017 Budget.

Committee members were informed that 2017/2018 provincial funding provides 62% of total revenue while 36% comes from property taxation and 2% from other sources. The total revenue from the Province is projected to be \$245,622,498.

Committee members were informed that the Board develops the budget based on the Winnipeg School Division's Strategic Plan. The plan includes providing robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity and a supportive learning environment for all students. It includes retaining, attracting and developing valued staff, addressing barriers to learning, enhancing sustainable development initiatives and developing communications and partnerships with the community.

Committee members reviewed the expenditures required in the draft budget for the 2017/2018 school year. Committee members were informed that 81% of the draft budget goes directly to the cost of providing instruction and supports in the classroom. The other 19% covers costs such as student transportation, building maintenance and operations, business administration and support services related to research, planning and technology. Other mandatory expenses are Canada Pension Plan costs, Employment Insurance premiums, payroll tax and the cost of supplies, materials, books and equipment.

Committee members were informed that in order to achieve a balanced budget, the Board of Trustees have proposed three options for a school levy tax increase: A 3% increase would be equal to an annual increase of \$40 on the average assessed value of a home in the Winnipeg School Division; A 3.9% increase equals to a \$52 increase on an average assessed value of a home and a 4.5% increase equals to a \$60 increase on an average assessed valued home.

Committee members were informed that in order to achieve a 3% special levy tax, programs/services such as Adult Crossing Guards, the Nursery Program, Library Technical Assistants, changes to the Transportation Policy and mileage expense payments would have to be significantly reduced to achieve savings.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – March 1, 2017

- 2 -

3. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FACEBOOK PAGE

At previous meetings, members discussed the possibility of creating a Facebook page dedicated to the members of the Committee in order to discuss topics of interest and share ideas that have been implemented and successful in their respective schools.

Committee members were informed that the Chair of the Committee along with the help of the Learning Technologies Consultant have created a Facebook page as a valuable resource that enables members of high school student councils to connect with other student councils across the Division. The Facebook page is a closed forum that would require anyone interested to currently have a Facebook account and would require a request for membership.

The link is found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/178847305942792/>

Committee members were informed that in addition to communication with other schools, school related matters may be shared on the Facebook page, such as school fundraisers, events and student/school accomplishments.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee will have the ability to accept requests, monitor and moderate comments. The Division will also assist in monitoring content.

The Board and Community Liaison Office will advise principals to share this information with their student council.

4. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

At the previous meeting, Committee members were informed that the members of the Board of Trustees would be interested in receiving feedback on the current practices or models that your school promotes in the best interests of Indigenous students and communities in WSD and any suggestions on practices that you would like the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education to explore in the future.

Committee members of Churchill High School noted the following practices or models being promoted in the best interests of indigenous students and communities in WSD”

- To date, the school has had one PD morning with teachers and administration as an introduction to some aspects of the historical context for the contemporary reality of Indigenous communities and a second PD is being planned. These will open the possibility of more focused conversations about promoting the 'best interests of Indigenous students and communities and the consequent development of school wide practices and models.
- The school has a teacher who is the Aboriginal Academic Achievement rep attends 4 meetings per year, and works with the Aboriginal Education consultant and grad coach. The teacher also facilitates the participation of students in the WSD Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – March 1, 2017

- 3 -

- The Churchill Indigenous Student Group is a student initiated group comprising Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Activities of the group include school wide Orange Shirt Day and Louis Riel Day events, beading circle, smudge group, graduation gifts and assists with the Indigenous student graduation feast. The main purpose of the group has been to raise awareness and educate students and staff about idea and issues related to Indigenous peoples in our community. The school also has a drum group.

In addition, Committee members discussed practices at their schools such as Treaty One Land acknowledgement on announcements, clubs for Indigenous culture, traditional beadwork, orange shirt day and a Thunder Bird House visit.

5. STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services – Equity & Diversity, Inclusive Education informed Committee members that at a meeting held June 6, 2016, the Board of trustees approved a motion to determine the feasibility of the Winnipeg School Division hosting a Student Sustainability Development Conference.

At the previous meeting, Committee members were informed that the three pillars to Education for Sustainable Development are Environment; Economy; and Human Health and Well-Being. Committee members were provided an opportunity to provide feedback on the structure of the Student Sustainability Conference.

Committee members expressed interest in implementing an exhibit for student created projects, such as a gallery or display. Committee members suggested a format where there could be a keynote speaker and breakout groups so individuals could attend topic specific workshops. Committee members discussed the possibility of a workshop on learning how to make a compost bin and incorporating an indigenous component by learning how to bead.

Committee members suggested that the conference be held in April, which honours Earth Day and would allow students to meet in the Fall and begin planning throughout the year.

The Committee was informed that a Conference Planning Committee is being formed and students wishing to participate should notify their staff advisor or contact Ms Mota directly at fmota@wsd1.org. Committee members were informed that the first meeting of the Conference Planning Committee will be held March 14, 2017.

6. BUDGET PROVISIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE PROJECT

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss Budget provisions for sustainable projects. Committee members were informed that the Division has an Education for Sustainable Development Plan. The Committee was informed that the plan is a living document that outlines the Division's strategies, it taps into governance, curriculum, facilities, operations and partnerships. The document can be found in the Winnipeg School Division's website.

<https://www.winnipeg.ca/About%20WSD/sustainabledevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – March 1, 2017

- 4 -

Committee members were informed that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is part of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development declared by the United Nations in 2005. ESD involves reorienting education systems to focus on sustainability through the inter-relationship of the following themes: economy, environment, human health and well-being.

Education for Sustainable Development involves incorporating key themes of sustainability, like poverty alleviation; human rights; health and environmental protection; and climate change, into the education system. ESD is an evolving concept that requires students to learn about these key themes from a social, cultural, environmental, and economic perspective. ESD explores how these factors are inter-related and inter-dependent to achieve human development.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee members discussed and agreed to add the following additional topic for discussion at a future meeting:

- Nutrition in Schools – cafeteria meals

8. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

Student representatives from the following schools provided a written report (attached) on school activities.

- Churchill High School

Elmwood High School

Committee members were informed of the following events at Elmwood High School:

- Winner of RBC's 150 Canada's Anniversary. Awarded \$150 for school events that would benefit the community. Made care packages for Siloam Mission with the winnings.
- Cultural Day
- Grad fundraiser

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – March 1, 2017

- 5 –

R.B. Russell Vocational High School

Committee members were informed of the following events at R.B. Russell Vocational High School:

- Spirit Week
- Grad fundraiser
- Christmas party
- Activity day
- Water drive for Shoal Lake
- Drum group
- Traditional parenting group

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate

Committee members were informed of the following events at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate:

- Tropical Tuesday
- Proposal for Video Game Wars competition

Sisler High School

Committee members were informed of the following events at Sisler High School:

- Grade Wars
- Bus fundraiser (a tribute to the bus driver who lost his life earlier this year)
- Brave the Shave in May

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Student Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

Student Representatives:

Churchill High School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
Elmwood High School
R. B Russell Vocational High School
Sisler High School

Regrets:

Argyle Alternative High School
College Churchill
Gordon Bell High School
Grant Park High School
Kelvin High School
Tec Voc High School

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services – Equity & Diversity, Inclusive Education
Rob Riel, Director of Aboriginal Education and Newcomer Services
Dominic Zagari, Staff Advisor, Churchill High School
Robyn Harrington, Staff Advisor, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
Katharine Thiessen, Staff Advisor, R.B. Russell Vocational High School
Greg Shedden, Staff Advisory, Sisler High School
Lisa Langan – Staff Advisor, Tec Voc High School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Kevin Freedman
Arlene Reid

Churchill High School

2017 Report

Churchill high school offers multiple clubs, sports teams, and other extra curricular activities. Some of these include:

- Leadership
- Student council
- Youth in philanthropy
- Peace learners
- Hockey
- Football
- Volleyball
- Curling
- Soccer
- Rugby
- Track/ cross country
- Basketball

So far, this year, the leadership class has hosted events collecting clothing donations along with multiple fundraisers benefiting the school and various charitable organizations. Earlier this year five students from the leadership class had the opportunity to travel to Edmundston, New Brunswick to participate in the annual Canadian Student Leadership Conference. This included keynote speakers, presentations, activities, exploring the town and getting to experience a different culture. Our school is also preparing to host the annual Horizons leadership conference. This will include multiple schools coming together for speakers, presentations and the opportunity to share ideas.

Our student council recently organized our gym riot which is an event that encourages students of all grades to come together to participate in games to earn points for their team. Along with gym riot, the student council put together our spirit week which included days such as twin day and formal day. Currently they are working to organize multiple health and wellness presentations that will take place at our school throughout the year.

The youth in philanthropy group has been meeting since the beginning of the school year to discuss and decide which Winnipeg charities we are interested in donating money to. Youth in philanthropy groups receive grants from The Winnipeg Foundation that allow us to make donations to the charities of our choice. Earlier this year we had the opportunity to attend a youth in philanthropy conference that offered multiple presentations on different ways that your school can get involved in youth in philanthropy.

Our peace learners group is made up of students from grade 9 to 12 who are passionate about making a difference. Each year they plan and put together multiple events and fundraisers benefiting people from Winnipeg and all over the world. In October our peace learners group participated in “We Scare Hunger” where they collected non-perishable food items for people in need. Earlier this year students involved in this group had the opportunity to travel to Halifax to participate in the We Day event that took place there. The group has also volunteered at a variety of organizations over the course of the year. They are currently working on a water initiative and planning even more events for our school to take part in.

This year Churchill High School offered something new for up and coming hockey stars. Our school introduced a hockey academy that integrates training into student’s academic schedule. Our football team and our curling teams all qualified for playoffs. Our varsity girl’s volleyball team had the opportunity to host and participate in the AAA provincials. Our basketball teams from junior high to varsity have been having a great season and we are looking forward to the upcoming spring sports.