

**STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2019**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 20, 2019

The Student Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. Election of Committee Chair**

At the Inaugural meeting of the Board held on September 16, 2019, Trustee Arlene Reid was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Jaime Dumont was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The student representative from Collège Churchill High School volunteered to Chair the Student Advisory Committee meeting.

**2. WSD 2020/2021 Budget Consultation**

The Committee received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2020/2021 school year.

The Committee was informed the Board is committed to obtain feedback from school communities, parent councils, residents and staff groups for the 2020/2021 school budget. The District Advisory meetings will provide parent representatives with an opportunity to share feedback, ideas and questions with the trustees in their local area.

The Committee was informed that it is anticipated that the Provincial funding announcement will be made in late January/early February. Once the announcement is received, the Finance/Personnel Committee of the Board will prepare final recommendations for approval by the Board of Trustees. Budget information will be distributed to all schools, parent councils, student councils, advisory committees, employee groups and others on request, and posted on Division's website.

The Committee was informed that District Advisory Committee meetings will be scheduled in February to provide an opportunity for dialogue and discussion about the draft budget. A Public Meeting regarding the draft budget will be held on February 24, 2020. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 2, 2020. All feedback will be considered by Finance/ Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 9, 2020. The Board must finalize the budget by March 13, 2020, as required by legislation.

The Committee was informed that the two major sources of funding are the Province of Manitoba and the property tax levy. In the most recent budget, provincial funding provided only 58.3% of the total revenue required to balance the WSD budget. The second major source of funding is from property taxation which provided an additional 38.5% of the total revenue. The remaining three percent is revenue from other sources such as the federal government, First Nations authorities and other school divisions who use WSD resources.

The Committee was informed that provincial funding limits the opportunities to assist school divisions in removing the many barriers to education. This may impact student outcomes and key building blocks that are necessary to contribute to their growth and success in school. The Committee was also informed that Provincial funding continues to lag behind the needs of the students, families, staff and communities of the Division, resulting in an increased burden on division residents through property taxation.

### **3. Presentation on Climate Strike**

Cole Osiowy, a student from Grant Park High School was in attendance and provided the Committee with an overview of Manitoba Youth for Climate Action.

The Committee was informed that Manitoba Youth for Climate Action is a local, independent group formed in December 2018 to organize school strikes where students leave class and attend demonstrations calling for action on climate change. School climate strikes were inspired by Greta Thunberg, a Swedish environmental activist on climate change.

The Committee was informed that Manitoba Youth for Climate Action is part of a national network of groups across many cities in Canada. The Committee was informed that this network, Climate Strike Canada has set out seven demands, mostly directed towards government which form the core of what students are calling for in terms of climate action.

The Committee was informed that climate strike empowers students to participate in the community in a meaningful way and gives them power within a democracy. The Committee was also informed that many of the goals of the climate strike, includes a well-rounded education system to align with empowering youth by encouraging meaningful participation in their communities.

The Committee was informed that all schools are invited to participate in the Climate Strike. It would also be important to continue to receive support from WSD to create, working groups in schools and encourage youth involvement.

Respectfully Submitted,

JAMIE DUMONT  
Trustee Representative

**In Attendance:**

**Student Representatives:**

Children of the Earth  
College Churchill  
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute  
Elmwood High School  
Gordon Bell High School  
R.B. Russell High School

**Trustees:**

Trustee Arlene Reid

**Administration:**

Tony Marchione, Acting Director of Technology  
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:**

Trustee Jamie Dumont