

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, February 28, 2018

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee members agreed to add French Immersion administration and the Assistant Deputy Education Minister for French-language education to the agenda as New Business. The Committee members approved the amended Agenda of February 28, 2018.

2. 2018/2019 DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Committee members were provided with an overview of the 2018/2019 Draft Budget.

Committee members were informed that on February 8, 2017, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The increase for all of Manitoba for 2018/2019 is .5% or \$6.6 million dollars. Committee members were informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division is tied to the number of students enrolled in the Division and equals an increase of .3% or \$600,000 over last year's funding.

Committee members were informed that the Division's costs increase every year due to inflation on required expenses such as Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance Premiums and Payroll Taxes. Committee members were informed that even with the Province's introduction of wage freezes for public sector employees, including teachers, salary increments earned by Division staff must be accounted for in the 2018/2019 budget.

Committee members were informed that the Minister encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2%. Committee members were informed that special requirement is based on the school year and property taxes are based on a calendar year.

Committee members were provided with three possible options based on meeting a 2% or 3% special requirement.

Committee members were informed that one option is a 2% special requirement or 3.29% property tax and is based on proposed additions for Health and Safety enhancements, additional resources for program and policy analysis and no reductions to existing programs and services.

Committee members were informed that an alternative option is a 2% special requirement or 3.29% property tax increase and is based on proposed additions for additional resources for program and policy analysis, financial software expenditures, building maintenance, school specialty programming promotional signage, additional teaching support for the Aerospace Program at Tec Voc High School, Health and Safety enhancements, online course delivery and school program additions such as additional funding to support students in care who are 18 to 21 years of age, Morningstar program, Inner City Science Centre. Committee members were informed that proposed reductions to this option include discontinuing the School Resource Officer program, Full-Day Kindergarten program reduction to half-day, converting summer school program to an online course delivery model, reduction of travel budgets and vacancy management.

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Committee members were informed that a third option is a 3% special requirement or 3.71% property tax increase and is based on proposed additions such as additional resources for program and policy analysis, building maintenance, school specialty programming promotional signage, additional teaching support for the Aerospace Program at Tec Voc High School, Health and Safety enhancements, online course delivery and school program additions such as additional funding to support students in care who are 18 to 21 years of age, Morningstar program, Inner City Science Centre. This option is based on no reductions to existing programs and services.

Committee members were informed that a 2% special requirement or 3.29% increase on property taxes for education is approximately \$45 per year on the average assessed home value of \$214,200.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Province's direction to limit special requirement increase to 2% is not a legal requirement. Committee members were informed that in order to retain valuable programs and services and with the rate of inflation it is difficult to limit the increase to 2% without reductions to programs and services.

In response to a parent enquiry, Committee members were informed that at a meeting held October 2, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the Division enter into a three-year contract with the City of Winnipeg for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program for the period September 2017 to June 2020.

The Division, the Province and the City of Winnipeg are each responsible for paying one-third of the program, and although not required under the Public Schools Act, the Division is required to increase the Special Levy to support this valuable program and provide the much needed resources that keep our school communities safe for our students.

Although the Province informed the Division that no further funding would be forthcoming, the Board has requested a meeting with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Justice to discuss the importance of the School Resource Officer Program, the financial impact on school divisions and the importance of the Department of Justice to financially support the educational component of justice through the SROs in the public school system and community.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that there are currently nine police officers employed and service all 78 Division schools and their communities.

Committee members suggested employing cadets as a cost-saving measure while retaining a police presence in the community.

A Committee member expressed the importance to have equity in Division programs such as Nursery, Full Day Kindergarten, School Resource Officers by having these programs placed in communities that have a greater socioeconomic need.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Division's administration cost is below the provincial mandate.

A Committee member suggested that implementing additional Full-Day Kindergarten programs can result in a decrease of transportation costs.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the International Education Program will result in a net revenue of \$501,900. The Committee members were informed that the program has been growing with the increased interest of international students. The Committee was informed that the Division has entered into an agreement with Canada Home Stay Network and that residents would have the opportunity to earn income by hosting international students.

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

Committee members were informed that the Budget presentation is available on the Winnipeg School Division's website along with a property tax calculator and survey.

Committee members were informed that in addition to budget presentations at District Advisory Committee meetings, information is available on the Division's website. A Public meeting was also held on February 26, 2018 at Administration Building No. 1, 1577 Wall Street East at 7:00 p.m. to provide budget information to the general public and receive feedback from individuals or groups that may wish to attend. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 5, 2018. All feedback will be considered by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 12, 2018.

3. POLICY EEA – TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS

Committee members were informed that at a previous meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the motion that on an interim basis, Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be revised to include provisions for Courtesy Transportation Services and that the Board would continue its review of the Fee for Service option for possible implementation in the 2018/2019 school year.

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held February 5, 2018, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the revised Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be distributed to District Advisory Committees for discussion.

Committee members received the revised policy which includes provisions for a fee-for-service, and processing fee for those students who meet the criteria under the Courtesy Seat provision. The revisions also include clarification on areas deemed hazardous.

Committee members were informed that the revised policy includes a fee for service cost that would be equivalent to the new City of Winnipeg rates at \$70 per month for a student transit bus pass. The new fees would include a reduced fee of \$35 per month for each additional child effective the 2018/2019 school year. In addition, the policy includes a non-refundable \$25 fee be applied to process applications for those who do not meet eligibility requirements and are applying under the Courtesy Seat / Fee for Service option.

The Committee members were informed that the policy also includes a provision for identifying hazardous area considerations, and that the schools identified as a hazard area are to be reviewed by the Transportation Department on an annual basis.

In response to an enquiry on transportation, Committee members were informed that at a previous meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the motion that on an interim basis, Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be revised to include provisions for Courtesy Transportation Services and that the Board would continue its review of the Fee for Service option for possible implementation in the 2018/2019 school year. Committee members expressed that an option to pay a fee for the service on an existing route would benefit families.

4. SCHOOL NAMES

In the spring of the 2017, Committee members received a copy of the Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area guideline as well as the biographies of school names. Parent representatives were encouraged to share this information with their respective Parent Advisory Committees and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

Committee members were reminded that parents and school representatives review the background of their school's name and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

Committee members received a copy of the guideline Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area as well as the biographies of school names. Committee members were informed that school's history may be found on the Division's website at www.winnipegsd.ca under the heading *Our Schools*.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 French Immersion Administration

Committee members expressed a concern on French Immersion program staffing. Committee members were informed that a Strategic priority is to retain and attract valued staff. The Committee members were informed that the Division advertises French Immersion administration positions externally as well as has made changes to staffing procedures, holds recruitment fairs and recruits across the country.

5.2 Assistant Deputy Minister for French Language Education

Committee members expressed a concern on the loss of the Assistant Deputy Education Minister for French-language education. Committee members were informed that staff in the Bureau de l'éducation française within the department of education have been transferred to other jobs while some vacancies have not been filled.

Committee members were informed that there will be a meeting held March 7, 2018 hosted by Partners for French Education at the Caboto Centre. More information on this meeting can be found on the Manitoba Teachers' Society website.

6. FOR INFORMATION

6.1 Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools

Committee members received a copy of Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools and were informed that at a meeting held on January 15, 2018, the Board of Trustees approved revisions to the policy.

Committee members were informed that the revisions to Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools outlines the guidelines for school initiated fundraisers, Parent Council Fundraisers, as well as the responsibilities of student/parent councils and principals.

6.2 Guidelines – Adding items for discussion at District Advisory Committee Meetings

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 4, 2017, the Board of Trustees requested that the process for adding items to the agenda for District Advisory Committee Meetings be provided to District Advisory Committee members for information.

Committee members were informed that in accordance with the Board Advisory Committee Guidelines, members may request to add agenda items during the approval of the agenda. The chairperson shall ask if there are any amendments to the Agenda. At this point, any Committee member may make a motion that something be added to the Agenda. In order for the Agenda to be revised to include new items, the revised agenda must be voted on and must be approved by the majority of the members present. It is recommended that no motions be made on any new items that are added to the Agenda as the representatives would not have had the opportunity to discuss the item with their parent/student council. However, discussion may take place on new items to provide information for representatives to take back to their parent/student councils for discussion and report back to the next Advisory Committee.

Committee members were informed that any member of the District Advisory Committee can request an item be added to an upcoming District Advisory Committee Agenda by contacting the Committee Chair/Board and Community Liaison Officer.

Committee members were informed that Advisory Committees should not take action or make representations to outside groups in the name of the Advisory Committee without the endorsement of the Board of Trustees. Advisory Committees should not receive delegations from the public. Delegations are received by the Board at special meetings. Advisory Committees should not discuss personnel matters or individual student concerns. These issues should be discussed with the school principal directly.

6.3 District Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 4, 2017, the Board of Trustees received the French Immersion Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussions as information. The Summary of Discussions have been distributed to Committee members the week of December 4, 2017. Committee members were informed that once reviewed by the Board, District Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

7. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

Parent representative from the following school provided a written report (attached) on school activities:

- École Garden Grove School

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the French Immersion Advisory Committee will be held Thursday, May 10, 2018.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Scott Colburn, École Garden Grove School
Heather Pachet, École J.B. Mitchell School
Debbie Purganan, École Lansdowne
Joelle Remillard, École LaVérendrye/River Heights
Michael Harrison, École Sir William Osler
Natalia Klumper, École Stanley Knowles School

Parent Representatives

École Robert H. Smith School parent representative

Regrets:

Collège Churchill
École secondaire Kelvin High School
École Riverview School
École Sacré-Coeur
École Victoria-Albert School

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services
Julie Smerchanski, Director of Assessment & Instructional Support Services
Graca Do Coto Moreira, Vice-Principal, École Garden Grove School
Matthew Couture, Vice-Principal, École Laura Secord School
Ruth Schappert, Principal, École LaVérendrye
Chantelle Deslauriers, Principal, École River Heights School
Dominique Ostermann, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith School
Karen Loveridge, Principal, École Sir William Osler
Ainslie Loria, Vice-Principal, École Stanley Knowles School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Mark Wasyliw
Chris Broughton

ÉCOLE GARDEN GROVE SCHOOL

2340 Burrows Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R2R 1W1
Phone 204-633-6477 Fax 204-632-6032

Ms. Karin Freiling
Principal

Mme Graça do Coto Moreira
Vice-Principal

École Garden Grove School French Immersion Advisory Report

- Every month at Garden Grove is a very busy one, with many activities for our students, and this month is no exception. Here are some of the extracurricular events going on at Garden Grove:
 - Skating Club
 - Mini-Olympics
 - Grade 1/2 Lunch Club
 - Music Festival
 - French Cultural Activities with les danseurs de la rivière rouge
 - Festival du voyageur
 - Orff Club
 - STEAM in both French and English
 - Destination Imagination

We would like to recognize all the hard work our staff does to conduct, organize and teach these activities with an already very busy teaching schedule.

- In order to provide exposure to the French language and cultural activities beyond the four classroom walls and beyond academic language, we have had the following performers at École Garden Grove, Pierre Freynet et les Têtes de violons and Les danseurs de la rivière rouge
- Les danseurs de la rivière rouge are providing dance workshops for our grades 3-5
- Fun en français will lead cooking workshops in French for our French Immersion students
- On February 13, the School Division held the first ever Division musical called The Circle of Life which was a huge success. Congratulations to Yasmin Reyes, who had a starring role as young Nala, and our Elementary choirs. A video of the performance is available on the website.
- We have Nursery / Kindertgarten night coming up on March 1, if you know of any families with children that are ready for N/K please let know about our information night
- Our school is a very active one

Respectfully submitted



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION