

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, November 22, 2016

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Chris Broughton, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees welcomed everyone to the first South District Advisory Committee meeting for the 2016/2017 school year. At the Inaugural meeting of the Board held on September 12, 2016, Trustee Chris Broughton was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Mark Wasyliw was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

The parent representative from École Riverview School volunteered to Chair the South District Advisory Committee for the 2016/2017 term.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A New Business item regarding the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education was added to the agenda. The Committee members approved the amended Agenda of November 22, 2016.

4. 2017/2018 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Chris Broughton, Chair of the Finance/Personnel Committee was in attendance to provide committee members with an overview of the 2017/2018 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that the Board developed the Budget in support of Winnipeg School Division Strategic Plan.

Committee members were informed that the Budget was developed on the following Strategic Priorities: providing a robust and comprehensive education for students; improving learning outcomes; addressing barriers to learning; retaining and attracting valued staff; communicating and partnering with our communities; strengthening and enhancing sustainable development and managing tax dollars responsibly.

Committee members received an overview on the 2016/2017 Budget expenditures which totaled \$396 million.

Committee members reviewed the current Budget under the following categories: regular instruction, student support services, community education and services, instructional and support services, administration, student transportation, operations and maintenance and fiscal and capital expenditures.

Committee members were 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 62% of the total revenue required to balance the WSD budget. The second major source of funding is from property taxation which provided an additional 36% of the total revenue. The remaining 2% is revenue from other sources such as the federal government, First Nations authorities and other school divisions who use WSD resources.

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Education is service based and the majority of the annual budget, or 81%, goes directly to the cost of providing instruction and supports in the classroom. Another 19% covers costs such as student transportation, building maintenance and operations, business administration and support services related to research, planning and technology.

The 2017/2018 Budget, will continue to focus on improving student success and aligning resources with student needs. The Board is committed to maintaining programs introduced during previous budgets. These include safe school initiatives, language programs, early years education and programs to ensure student success through to graduation. The provincial funding announcement is expected from mid-January to mid-February.

Committee members received a survey to facilitate discussions on the 2017/2018 Budget.

Committee members expressed concern over the value of full day kindergarten. Committee members questioned the benefits of the program as statistical evidence indicates there is no improvement in skills shown after grade three compared to students who did not attend full day kindergarten. Committee members suggested that it would be beneficial to focus energy and money on other aspects of learning.

In response to an enquiry from a parent representative, Committee members were informed that the Division spends over \$80 million on special needs students, while provincial funding is approximately \$18 million. The Committee was informed that the Board recently approved a recommendation to provide improved access to educational and health supports to students on the autism spectrum and identify improvements in inclusive classroom settings, conduct a needs assessment for enhancing assistive technologies to support students with autism in the classroom and review the possibility of offering a low enrolment autism centre in a school where a full day Kindergarten program is provided for students. The WSD prides itself in providing a safe and supported learning environment that is accessible to every child.

In response to an enquiry from a parent representative, Committee members were informed that property located near Harrow School was purchased by the Province to build a child care facility. Committee members expressed concern that property is being utilized that could be beneficial to alleviate student enrolment in the future.

Committee members expressed concern on the overuse of paper in the Division. Committee members encouraged administration buildings and schools to be consistent in using electronic communication to reduce costs and improve sustainability. Committee members were informed that correspondence involving fundraising is required to be distributed on paper due to anti-spam legislation, as well Committee members were reminded that the Division has a vast community that vary in technology abilities and may not necessarily have access to the tools that would enable electronic communication.

Committee members supported possible cost saving alternatives to Division transportation such as congregated/community stops. This approach would require students to walk to a local school or designated community bus stop to be picked-up by the bus that would transport them to the school they attend. Committee members were informed of implications that will need to be further researched by administration as well as gathering feedback from parents and the community. Committee members expressed a desire to see division transportation broadened to include other modes of transportation such as walking school bus. Committee members were informed that the Division is reviewing the possibility of a walking school bus program.

Committee members supported initiatives that would enhance regular instruction.

Committee members supported receiving “Our Schools” newspaper through a subscription, therefore reducing the number of “Our Schools” printed and distributed to schools.

Committee members were informed that in addition to Budget presentations at District Advisory Committee meetings additional information is available on the Division’s website including a Budget tool and property tax calculator. A Public meeting will also be held on February 27, 2017 at Administration Building No. 1, 1577 Wall Street East at 7:00 p.m. to provide information to the public and receive feedback from individuals or groups that may wish to attend. A survey is posted on the Division’s website www.winnipegdsd.ca. Committee members were advised that the members of the Board are interested in receiving pre budget feedback.

5. FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER (F&ST)

Committee members received a presentation by Christine Turnbull of Families and Schools Together. Families and Schools Together helps children thrive by building stronger, more supportive relationships at home. Built on evidence-based practices and rigorously tested, FAST consistently produces statistically significant improvements in children’s behavior, emotional well-being and academic performance while building social capital among families, schools and communities. Families and Schools Together, Inc. exists to make a critical difference in the midst of these challenges by empowering parents, strengthening families and creating social networks that give children the opportunity for fulfilling, productive lives.

Committee members were informed that FAST program runs one night a week for 8 weeks, providing transportation and meals to participating families. Children, parents and youth are separated into groups for age based activities and instruction based classes. The FAST program also has a 2 year follow up program called Fast Works where families get together once a month for activities. The FAST program connects families with primary school administration as well as assists in helping families get connected with community based programs.

Committee members were informed that Families and Schools Together is funded by schools, the Province of MB and United Way. The program is offered for all grade levels and activities have been adjusted to meet the needs of the target child’s age. Families and Schools Together programs are run by trained staff, teachers, recreation coordinator, community partners and youth advocates. Each FAST Team forms a “hub” serving eight to 10 participating FAST Families. Several FAST Teams can collaborate to run multiple hubs simultaneously to serve larger populations, such as an entire grade level of children and their families. For more information on the program or to have a presentation please contact Christine Turnbull at Families and Schools Together by email at cturnbull@familydynamics.ca or by phone at 204-947-1401.

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6. 2016/2017 ADVISORY COMMITTEE DATES

Committee members were informed of the following schedule of the District Advisory Committees for the 2016/2017 school year.

Central District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9, 2016
Thursday, February 23, 2017
Thursday, May 4, 2017

North District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Tuesday, April 25, 2017

French Immersion Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30, 2016
Thursday, March 2, 2017
Thursday, May 11, 2017

Inner City District Advisory Committee
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Thursday, April 27, 2017

South District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22, 2016
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Student Advisory Committee
4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Tuesday, May 9, 2017

7. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Committee members were informed that last year, the Policy/Program Committee approved the formation of a sub-committee, the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education. The purpose of the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education (ACIE) is to communicate and provide feedback to the Policy/Program Committee on all matters relating to the teaching, learning and cultural needs of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in the Winnipeg School Division.

The membership includes two trustee representatives from the Policy/Program Committee, and one trustee representative from the Finance/Personnel Committee, as well as the Chair of Board of Trustees who acts as an ex-officio member of the Council. The membership also includes the Division's elders, administration, and six members of the parent/business/community representatives. At a meeting held November 7th, 2016, the Committee appointed Trustee Broughton as Chair of the ACIE, and Trustees Koshelanyk and Naylor as representatives.

Committee members were informed that the Indigenous Education Collaborative Blueprint was signed in December 2015. All educational partners in Manitoba are participating in identifying practices and models of Indigenous education across the early, middle, senior and post-secondary years.

Committee members were informed that the Winnipeg School Division has supported Indigenous Education through providing a variety of programs and services to students/families in schools.

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 were informed that feedback could be directed to the Board Office at 1577 Wall Street East, Winnipeg, MB R3E 2S5 or by email at board@wsd1.org.

Committee members were informed that the discussion would continue at a spring District Advisory Committee meeting.

8. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- École Robert H. Smith School

9. FOR INFORMATION

9.1 Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC)

Committee members were reminded to contact the Board Office if they wish to become a member of the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils for the 2016/2017 school year.

9.2 Our Schools Newspaper

Committee members were informed that at a Public Relations/Communications meeting held September 26, 2016, the Committee discussed the possibility of reducing the number of copies going out to the public and schools. The Committee was informed that administration could conduct a test period by installing a link to Our Schools Newspaper which would be available on the trustee portal site at no cost to the Division.

Committee members were informed that they could visit the website below in order to subscribe to Our Schools Newspaper.

<https://www.winnipegssd.ca/About%20WSD/NEWS/OurSchools/Pages/SubscribeToOurSchools.aspx>

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9.3 Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees

The parent representatives received a copy of the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees for information.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the South District Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Brock Corydon School
Beth Smyth, Collège Churchill
Andrea Villeneuve, Grant Park High School
Lorne Hanks, Grosvenor School
Lisa Smit-Beiko, Harrow School
École LaVerendrye, Matthew Cosway
Amanda Plante, Lord Roberts School
Dawn Clarke, École River Heights School
Jodie Sie, École Riverview School
Terry Wuerz, École Robert H. Smith School
Deanna Betteridge, Rockwood School
David Arbez, École Sir William Osler

Regrets:

Carpathia School
Earl Grey School
Gladstone School
Montrose School

Trustees:

Chris Broughton
Mark Wasyliv
Sherri Rollins
Dean Koshelanyk

Administration:

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent
Julie Millar, Director of Student Services
Donna Miller, Principal, Churchill High School
Andrea Powell, Principal, Grosvenor School
Chantelle Deslauriers, Principal, École River Heights School
Russell Antymis, Vice-Principal, École River Heights School
Tom Rossi, Principal, École Robert H. Smith School
Jamie Hutchison, Principal, Rockwood School
Karen Loveridge, École Sir William Osler
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Carrie Logan, WANTE Representative



École Robert H. Smith PAG

November Newsletter

November 2016



Important Dates

- Next PAG Meetings:
Dec. 5, 2016
Mar 6, 2017
Apr 24, 2017
- Winter Break:
Dec 23 - Jan 6
- Last day to submit gift card fundraiser orders:
Nov 17, 2016

Welcome to November

In some ways it's hard to believe that the middle of November is already upon us. However, when looking back at last few months, we have accomplished a lot since the beginning of the school year. In just two and a half months, we have had three fundraisers, a Halloween dance, elected new PAG board members, and of course, built a new play structure!

The PAG would like to thank all parent volunteers who have shared their time, skills, and talents to make the beginning of this school year full of community spirit. Some of you have held hands during vaccinations, others have supervised field trips, some have tested hearing of kindergarteners and new students, and some of you helped host an amazing school-wide Halloween dance.

Thank you to all for making each of these events a success!

See you at these upcoming events: Fun Lunches, Book Fair, Enviro-A-Thon, and Vision Screening.

2016/2017 Parents Advisory Group Board

The PAG has new faces this year. We would like to introduce you to the 2016/2017 École Robert H. Smith School Parents Advisory Group.



South District Advisor

Terry Wuerz

Communications

Andrew Stobart

Executive Committee

Jill Condra

James Wright

Audrey McNab & Melissa Harrison

VACANT

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Co-treasurer

Secretary

Fun Lunch Committee

Melanie Dorrington

Kate Franklin

Vicki Shalley

Promotions and Fundraising

Julie Garcia

Family Dance Director

Lia Wright

Volunteer Recruitment and Activities

Jocelyne Teskey

Environment / Sustainable Development

Julie Garcia (Chair)

Gail Johnston

Megan McCarthy

Kerri McCurdy

Staff Appreciation

Anji Petruzelli

Want to join the PAG?

We are currently looking to fill the following two positions for the 2016/2017 school year. If you are interested, please reach out to us at rhspag@gmail.com.

The PAG is a great way to keep informed and help shape the learning environment at our school. Your commitment to the PAG is significant in impact, but relatively low on time commitment. We encourage you to explore the open positions, come out to the next meeting, and join us in keeping École Robert H. Smith School a fantastic place to learn and grow.

Secretary (2 year term, renewed in May of even-numbered years)

- take minutes at PAG meeting and submit to chair for distribution with 3 days of a meeting
- member of executive committee
- holds signing authority
- take attendance record at PAG meeting and daycare at the school during the PAG meetings
- arrange babysitting as required
- ensuring that meeting agendas and supplemental reports are printed in advance of the meeting
- coordinating and printing notices of PAG meetings for the school doors
- ensuring chair and/or vice-chair have reached out to committees about 10-12 days in advance of the meeting for agenda items and reports

French Language Coordinator

- attend WSD meetings concerning French Language & report back to the PAG
- prepare annual report to the PAG
- prepare reports for PAG meetings as necessary
- Speaking French is not a requirement

Playground Update

Our new play structure is ready for the kids! On November 8th, the fences came down around the new obstacle course structure. This is part of phase 2 of the Playground Enhancement Project, and also includes additional benches and shade trees.

There is also a buddy bench that we are very excited about. For those unfamiliar, the buddy bench idea has been around for some time in Europe, and has exploded in popularity in North America over the last few years. The idea is that children who are looking for playmates can sit on the bench as a signal that they would like someone to come and play with them.



PAG Gift Card Fundraiser

The PAG is raising funds for the Robert H. Smith Performing Arts and Music Program.

This fundraiser allows us to purchase GIFT CARDS at face value, and a percentage of every card purchased is contributed to our PAG. It costs you nothing extra, but funds are earned for our group. Many of the retailers are ones you shop at every week.

Who are the participating retailers? There are lots of choices from Aldo to Walmart, and everything in between. Below is only a small subset of retailers that are participating.



Orders can be placed online at <http://rhs.hotlunches.net>. Note that only 1 order can be submitted per student. If you would prefer a paper order form, those can be picked up at the school office. Gift cards will be delivered to the school the first week of December.

Last day for orders is **NOVEMBER 17, 2016**.

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<http://roberthsmithpag.weebly.com>

Have a thought, suggestion, idea, or just want to say hi? We can always be reached at rhspag@gmail.com.