

**SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2016**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 22, 2016

The South District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. 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. The Committee was informed that the Board developed the Budget in support of Winnipeg School Division Strategic Plan.

The Committee was 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.

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

The Committee 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.

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 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.

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 Committee was informed that the provincial funding announcement is expected from mid-January to mid-February.

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

The Committee expressed concern over the value of full day kindergarten. The Committee 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. The Committee 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, the Committee was 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, the Committee was informed that property located near Harrow School was purchased by the Province to build a child care facility. The Committee expressed concern that property is being utilized that could be beneficial to alleviate student enrolment in the future.

The Committee expressed concern on the overuse of paper in the Division. The Committee encouraged administration buildings and schools to be consistent in using electronic communication to reduce costs and improve sustainability. The Committee was informed that correspondence involving fundraising is required to be distributed on paper due to anti-spam legislation, as well the Committee was 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.

The Committee 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. The Committee was informed of implications that will need to be further researched by administration as well as gathering feedback from parents and the community. The Committee expressed a desire to see division transportation broadened to include other modes of transportation such as walking school bus. The Committee was informed that the Division is reviewing the possibility of a walking school bus program.

The Committee supported initiatives that would enhance regular instruction.

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

The Committee was 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](http://www.winnipegdsd.ca). Committee members were advised that the members of the Board are interested in receiving pre budget feedback.

## 2. **Families and Schools Together (F&ST)**

The Committee 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, F&ST 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.

The Committee was informed that F&ST 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 F&ST program connects families with primary school administration as well as assists in helping families get connected with community based programs.

The Committee was 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 F&ST Team forms a "hub" serving eight to 10 participating F&ST Families. Several F&ST 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](mailto:cturnbull@familydynamics.ca) or by phone at 204-947-1401.

## 3. **2016/2017 Advisory Committee Dates**

The Committee was 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

#### **4. Advisory Council on Indigenous Education**

The Committee was 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Committee appointed Trustee Broughton as Chair of the ACIE, and Trustees Koshelanyk and Naylor as representatives.

The Committee was 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.

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

The Committee was 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. The Committee was 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](mailto:board@wsd1.org).

The Committee was informed that the discussion would continue at a spring District Advisory Committee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHRIS BROUGHTON  
Trustee Representative

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**South District Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2016****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

**Trustees:**

Chris Broughton  
Mark Wasyliw  
Sherri Rollins  
Dean Koshelanyk

**Regrets:**

Carpathia School  
Earl Grey School  
Gladstone School  
Montrose School

**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