

March 1, 2021

North District Advisory Committee Report No. 1 - 2021

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1 - 2021

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 23, 2021

The North District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2021/2022 Draft Budget Discussion

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide an overview on the draft Budget for the 2021/2022 school year.

The Committee was informed that on February 4, 2021, the Province of Manitoba announced an increase in education funding of \$20.8 million dollars. This resulted in a decrease in funding from the province of 1.6% or \$2.9 million dollars and an additional reduction from other revenue resources such as the Federal government of \$1.3 million dollars. As a result, the Board of Trustees is required to reduce almost \$5 million in programs in order to achieve a balanced budget of \$421,039,405. As directed by the Provincial Government, the property tax levy for WSD home and business owners will be frozen at 2020 levels or a decrease of about \$6 a year on the average assessed home value of \$225,700 within in WSD.

The Committee was informed that the reduction in the provincial budget along with the two percent cap on the special levy has created a deficit that requires WSD to reduce programs and/or services in order to achieve a balanced budget for the 2021/2022 school year.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees drafted a proposed list of reductions to be made including School Resource Officers, Unfilled divisional support position vacancies, Occupational/ Physiotherapy, Milk Subsidy Program, Utility savings, School Budgets (non-salary), and School Clerk positions(12 month to 10 month).

The Committee expressed concern regarding the proposed reduction to Occupational/ Physiotherapy programming. The Committee was informed that the Board discussed the possibility of the program being subsidized by Health Services. The Board of Trustees will request a meeting with the province to request that funding be provided by the WRHA for the delivery of the program. The Committee was informed that in the event that WRHA is unable to subsidize the costs of the Occupational/ Physiotherapy program the Board of Trustees would need to re-examine the list of non-mandated programs to determine what in other areas reductions could be made to balance the budget.

The Committee was informed that initially the SRO program began as a tripartite agreement between the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and WSD, for the delivery of service and was equally funded by all parties. In recent years, the province does not provide funding to support for any increases and WSD has supplemented the difference to support the continuation of the program. The Board of Trustees will continue discussions with the City and Province regarding alternate options for the SRO program.

The Committee expressed concern that not all community members in the North End received the SRO survey and therefore their voices may not be reflected in the data results collected. The Committee commented that it was vital the survey was equitable and that all neighborhoods were included.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to lobby the province to provide funding to school boards that takes into account inflation costs to ensure that schools are able to cover these vital programs. The Committee was informed that they can contact their MLA and the Minister of Education to voice their concerns

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to explore alternate revenue streams to avoid being completely dependent on the province to provide funding for these programs.

The Committee was informed that feedback in writing should be submitted no later than March 1, 2021. All feedback will be taken into consideration by the Board of Trustees prior to finalizing the Budget. The Budget must be submitted to the Province of Manitoba by March 15, 2021.

2. Renaming of Cecil Rhodes School

The Committee was informed that the surveys have been completed and that the administration is reviewing the results of the survey. The results of the survey will be presented to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting for review and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

ARLENE REID
Trustee Representative

In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Andrew Mynarski School
Champlain School
Lansdowne School
Faraday School
Garden Grove School
Inkster School
Lord Nelson School
Meadows West School
Ralph Brown School
Robertson School
Shaughnessy Park School
St. John's High School
Stanley Knowles School
Waterford Springs School
Luxton School
Sisler High School

Regrets

Isaac Newton School
Prairie Rose School
Tyndall Park School

Administration

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services
Paul Kochan, Secretary-Treasurer
Tony Marchione, Director
Jennifer Cox, Principal Faraday School
Dino Di Fabrizio, Principal Inkster School
Mohammad Rezai, Principal Isaac Newton School
Sandra Severson, Principal Lord Nelson School
Joy Perrott, Principal Luxton School
Ken Romaniuk, Principal Prairie Rose School
Rosanna Guzzi, Principal Ralph Brown School
Jude Guzzi, Principal Robertson School
Doug Taylor, Principal St. John's High School
Pat Graham, Principal Shaughnessy Park School
Gisele Mosphanchuk, Principal Tyndall Park School
Paulo Teixeira, Principal Champlain School
Daniel Keith, Vice-Principal Lord Nelson School
Joanne Sabourin, Vice-Principal St. John's High School
Julie Popke, Vice-Principal Isaac Newton School
Lucas Buller, Vice-Principal Andrew Mynarski School
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal Sisler High School
Steven Nikkel, Vice-Principal Shaughnessy Park School
Amanda Ferbrache, W.A.N.T.E. Representative

Trustees

Arlene Reid
Linda Schatkowsky
Jennifer Chen