

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – February 18, 2016

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

As there were five voting representatives in attendance and six are required to form a quorum, the parent representatives agreed to proceed with an informal meeting.

2. 2016/2017 DRAFT BUDGET PRESENTATION

Committee members were provided with an overview of the 2016/2017 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that on January 5, 2016, the Minister of Education and Advanced Learning announced that the total funding for public schools will increase above the rate of economic growth at 2.55%, or \$32.5 million, to bring total funding to more than \$1.3 billion.

Committee members were informed that 2016/2017 provincial funding provides 61% of total revenue while 37% comes from property taxation and 2% from other sources. Total revenue from the Province of Manitoba is projected to be \$243,048,107.

Committee members were informed that the budget was developed on the following Guiding Principles: Leading Education and Innovation; Providing High Quality Education; Employing Qualified, Caring and Competent Staff; Managing Tax Dollars Responsibly.

Committee members reviewed the expenditures required in the draft budget for the 2016/2017 school year which total \$396.9 million. This represents an overall expenditure increase of \$9.4 million or 2.3% from the 2015/2016 budget. The increase in expenditures is due to the continuation of existing programs and services; mandatory changes in rates and/or costs related to negotiated salary increases, increments, payroll related benefits, benefits and Canada Pension Plan costs; the maintenance of buildings and equipment.

The Board has approached development of the draft budget with a focus on improving student success, aligning resources with student needs and seeking efficiencies in business administration. Consideration is also being given to include budget allocations to Program and Services enhancements such as adding full-day Kindergarten in four schools; providing bilingual language support for the three new language programs slated to begin in September 2016; investing in healthy minds programming; implementing an employee assistance program for the health and wellness of support staff; science enrichment; strengthening indigenous education and bringing gender balance teaching with the addition of a second division-wide Aboriginal elder; enhanced literacy pilot and maintaining the student success initiative at Elmwood High School.

The Board has also addressed aligning its limited resources with student needs. The Draft Budget includes cost saving measures related to efficiencies in delivering compulsory high school physical education credits – where students are earning an external high school credit by participating in out-of-school sports activities; moving from a universal subsidy for the milk program and band instrument program to a needs based support level; program lifecycle; data driven instruction funds retargeted from Comprehensive Assessment (CAP); improvement in business administration including print copier lease savings, fees for office, information systems and research services; support for financial controls, language evaluation and external communications.

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To implement the proposals for consultation, maintain existing programs and services and achieve a balanced budget, the Board proposes a property tax increase of \$62 per year or 5% on the average assessed property of \$203,900 in the Winnipeg School Division, which includes the proposed enhancements. The Draft Budget balances the needs of students, maintains the building and equipment infrastructure of the Division, adds new programs and service enhancements and manages tax dollars responsibly.

Committee members were informed that since 2006 the net school tax on an average assessed home in the Division when the education property tax credit is accounted for, has remained relatively stable. The Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC) is currently \$700 per owner occupied home. Seniors are eligible for an additional credit of up to \$1,100 and renters are also eligible for a credit through their income tax.

Committee members discussed the proposed 5% tax increase and expressed concern on the potential increase in property taxes.

Committee members expressed concern on the proposed changes to the milk subsidy and band equipment. Committee members also expressed concern on how schools would determine which families were entitled to subsidies in the milk and band program.

Committee members expressed concern that additional language programs are being added to the budget when existing languages are in need of additional supports. Committee members expressed concern that implementing language programs such as Spanish could be an additional expense to the Division to transport students in the program. Committee members questioned why the Board would consider additional programs, while cutting other services resulting in the need to raise property taxes. Committee members suggested that trustees reconsider and perhaps establish another French Immersion Nursery program.

In response to an enquiry regarding property development in the downtown area, Committee members were informed that trustees met with the Province to discuss the Tax Increment Financing to review the number of Division properties designated under the Act, including the properties that are tax exempt or have been designated under the SHED.

Committee members expressed concern on the effectiveness of clinical supports provided to children in the areas of speech pathology and occupational therapy. Committee members expressed concern that the need for clinical supports for students is overwhelming and that there is a lack of staff available to provide consistent support. Committee members expressed concern that the limited therapy students receive can be viewed as ineffective.

Committee members were informed that there is a Budget presentation on the Winnipeg School Division's website along with a Budget simulator, 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 will also be held on February 22, 2016 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 as well there is a survey posted on the Division's website www.wsd1.org. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until February 26, 2016. 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 7, 2016.

3. FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM – ENROLMENT AND BUILDING CAPACITY

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services – Equity & Diversity, Inclusive Education provided Committee members with an overview on enrolment projections for the French Immersion program. Committee members were informed that enrolment is increasing in a majority of the French Immersion Programs and that there are factors that are impacting space in schools, such as the provincial initiative 20 K-3 requirements. The Division must be in compliance with the 20 K-3 initiative by 2017. Committee members were informed that schools will need to monitor out of catchment and non-resident enrolments to assist in complying with the provincial initiative.

4. ECOLE LA VERENDRYE & SIR WILLIAM OSLER

Committee members were informed that the Transition Committee consisting of parent/staff and Division representatives of École LaVérendrye/Sir William Osler will be meeting in the upcoming week. Members of the Transition Committee expressed gratitude to the Board of Trustees for listening to their concerns on whether École LaVérendrye will be ready for students to return in September 2016. Members of Transition Committee indicated that parents continue to need clarification surrounding bussing and the care program.

5. FOR INFORMATION

5.1 District Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held February 1, 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 February 1, 2015. 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.

6. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- École Lansdowne
- École Victoria-Albert School

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the French Immersion Advisory Committee will be held Thursday, May 19, 2016.

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IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Julie Strong, Collège Churchill
Cara McDougall, École George V School
Sabrina Lusty, École George V School
Anita Mallatrat, École Laura Secord School
Ratna Pandey, École LaVèrendrye
Andrea Bellamy, École Robert H. Smith School

Regrets:

École Garden Grove School
École J.B. Mitchell School
École Lansdowne
École River Heights School
École Victoria-Albert School

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services – Equity & Diversity,
Inclusive Education
Paulette Huggins, École J.B. Mitchell School
Sherry Jones, Vice-Principal, École Lansdowne
Matthew Couture, Vice-Principal, École Laura Secord
Sharon Labossiere, Vice Principal, École LaVèrendrye/Sir William Osler
Helena Tessier – Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Sherri Rollins
Allan Beach

Non-Voting Representatives:

Barbara Morrison, W.A.N.T.E.



École Lansdowne



February, 2016

Such exciting news!

Thanks to the incredible dedication of school administration, staff, parents and community members, École Lansdowne was able to raise funds for our brand new play structure in approximately one year's time! Plans and fundraising are underway for phase two which will introduce a younger years' play structure to our school yard.

Sports

Junior high basketball and track and field have finally started and our junior high students have never been more ready. All Tier 2 and Developmental b-ball teams are filled with great students and coaches who strive to do their best to represent our school. As for track, our school is hoping to bring back a few ribbons.

The grade 5 and 6's volleyball tournament was held in our school on February 4th. Our Tier 2 basketball team is in the playoffs. The Lansdowne team also participated in a track meet at the U of M on Wednesday, February 17th.

Music

The Music department at École Lansdowne is preparing for many upcoming events. Grades 4-6 students will participate in the Winnipeg Music Festival in March.

Grade 5 students will host for the Winnipeg School Division Choir at École Sacré Coeur and École Lavérendrye. Plans are underway for a performance at the Legislature building in May and a possible concert at each other's schools.

Grade 7 students are progressing through our band program and Grade 8 students are getting ready for the upcoming Spring concert.

Spring Concert/Spring Fling

Grades 4-8 will be performing at the Spring Fling on April 21st. This evening will also include a craft/vendor sale and silent auction table.

Quebec Trip

Grade 7s and 8s are busy fundraising and getting excited for their upcoming trip to Quebec. Students will be immersed in the French culture by visiting museums, restaurants and historical sites.

Go Lions!

ÉCOLE VICTORIA-ALBERT SCHOOL

110 Ellen Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 1A1
204-943-3459 (Fax) 204-957-7207

NELIA HUSACK, Principal
KATHLEEN PALAY, Vice Principal

French Immersion Advisory Committee
February 18, 2016

École Victoria-Albert School Report

École Victoria Albert School continues to be a busy and vibrant building! Activities and events include:

- French Week celebrations this week, with a live musical performance by Jacques Chenier, a pancake breakfast, voyageur games, and other fun-filled activities! Grade 2 & 3 French Immersion classes also attended the Festival du Voyageur.
- Engaging Fusion artists working with our Grade 1-3 students to further their development of music and dance skills. French Immersion classes enjoyed the French musician Tessa Springate.
- Weekly Early Childhood Music Education for our Nursery/Kindergarten students, facilitated by music artist Sarah Kroeker
- Lunch hour and after school clubs boasting high participation numbers, including activities such as knitting club, recorder karate, lunch hour choir, basketball and indoor soccer.
- Student-Led Conferences coming up in March

An Elder-led Pow Wow Club is held every week.

École Victoria Albert School's Parent Advisory Council continues to have monthly meetings.

A number of programs and activities continue to run out of our Family room.

These include: Nutrition bingo
Grandma's group
Clothing depot
Craft activities
Sewing activities
Coats for Kids
Potluck gatherings
Community outings

Coming up.....

- On March 15th we will hold our Open House/ Information Evening for our French Immersion and English Kindergarten & Grade One programs
- Grade 4- 6 students will soon be busy preparing for our Spring Concert/Production in April!