

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2015

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

May 7, 2015

Your Student Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Interac Payment

Mr. Doug Edmond, Director of Research, Planning & Systems Management was in attendance to provide an overview on electronic payments in the Winnipeg School Division.

Your Committee was informed that as a result of previous discussions at Student Advisory Committee meetings, regarding automated banking machines, administration has obtained information regarding the viability of placing Automated Banking Machines (ATM) in schools.

Your Committee was informed that the cost to acquire an ATM is approximately \$4,000. In addition to the cost of the machine, whether purchased outright or leased, the customer is responsible for the costs of installation including electrical and internet or telephone communication hook-ups, anchoring/placement, and security. The replenishment of cash to the machine is usually the responsibility of the customer although some third-party services may be available. The customers generate revenues from the machine by charging a user transaction fee which ranges between \$1.00 and \$1.75.

Administration has previously contacted high schools in the Winnipeg School Division and the cafeterias in most schools are operated through a food service contractor who offers interact as a method of payment. At least one school indicated that a cash-back option is available with a \$1.50 charge.

In the review conducted, other considerations regarding ATM's were noted. In addition to the transaction fee charged at ATM's, the user is also often charged a processing fee by their own financial institution that can range from \$1.50 to \$2.00. It was also noted that security for ATM's is becoming more critical both for the machines themselves and as a result of card reader devices that are being placed on ATM's to steal banking card information. This information is then utilized to access funds from the account of the user. Several questions remain regarding the ethics of placing ATM's in schools.

Your Committee discussed possible solutions for safety including implementing regulations on usage such as the location of machines, staff presence at all times and limiting hours of use to school hours only. Your Committee also discussed having portable machines as an alternate to ATMs in schools. Your Committee expressed concern on whether the funds for ATMs would be obtained from the Winnipeg School Division's budget. Your Committee was informed that the use of portable machines could be an option as well as ATM machines.

Your Committee was informed that feedback from the meeting will be brought back to administration for further review and consideration.

2. Technology in Schools

Mr. Doug Edmond, Director of Research, Planning & Systems Management was in attendance to provide an overview on Technology in Schools. Your Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees passed a budget that will enhance wireless internet service in all schools.

Your Committee was provided with information on Acceptable Use of WSD BYOD Wireless Network; Update on Wireless Infrastructure; and a background information article on Bring Your Own Device.

Your Committee was informed that the implementation of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) allows the Division to improve access in all areas of the school that would not be possible with wired devices. Your Committee was informed that students using a personally owned device will need to use a passcode to connect to WSD-STUDENT and are prompted to log in with their network account to be recognized at the school.

In response to an enquiry, Your Committee was informed that all school divisions utilize the filtering services provided by the provincial special operating agency Merlin. There are filtering options available for local schools and/or designated groups of division owned devices. Your Committee was informed that school administrators would be reminded of the filtering options available for their school and designated groups of student and/or staff division owned devices.

Your Committee was informed of the Division's new portal as well as access to "MySite"

3. Structure of District Advisory Committees

Your Committee was informed that at a meeting held November 3, 2014, the Board of Trustees adopted a motion to establish a Special Committee to Review the Existing Structure of the District Advisory Committees to improve participation and communication between the Board of Trustees, School Parent Councils and the community.

Your Committee was informed that as a result of discussions regarding the importance of parental and student involvement within the Winnipeg School Division, a survey has been developed to obtain feedback from parents/parent councils, District Advisory Committee members and community members to improve communication with the Board of Trustees.

Your Committee was informed that the survey has also been posted on the Division's website under the newly created Parent Council subsection under the Family & Community tab.

www.winnipegdsd.ca/FAMILY%20COMMUNITY/Parent%20Council/Pages/default.aspx

Your Committee discussed possible alternatives to student advisory meetings such as times, dates and different locations for meetings that may improve student attendance.

Respectfully Submitted,

LISA NAYLOR
Trustee Representative

Student Representatives

Argyle Alternative High School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
Elmwood High School
St. John's High School
Sisler High School
Tec Voc High School

Trustees

Lisa Naylor
Kevin Freedman

Administration

Doug Edmond, Director, Research, Planning & Systems Management
Gil Richard, Staff Advisor, Argyle Alternative High School
Rosanna Guzzi, Vice-Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
Michelle Sacco, Vice-Principal, Tec Voc High School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Children of the Earth High School
Churchill High School
Grant Park High School
Kelvin High School
R.B. Russell High School