

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2020

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

December 15, 2020

The Student Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Election of Committee Chair

The Committee was informed that at a Board meeting, Trustee Betty Edel was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Chris Broughton was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The student representative from College Churchill volunteered to Chair the meeting.

2. WSD 2021/2022 Budget Consultation

The Committee received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2021/2022 school year.

The Committee was informed that the Budget is developed based on the WSD Strategic Plan that aligns with the vision to be engaged, confident, inspired and successful learners. The Committee was informed that the development of the budget includes students, learning outcomes, employing qualified caring and competent staff, practicing sustainable development, and building relationships.

The Committee was informed that the Board is committed to obtaining feedback from school communities, parent councils, residents and staff groups for the 2021/2022 budget.

The Committee was informed that this year, the members of the Board are interested in receiving feedback on school resources that may be required to fulfil educational mandate and the most important issue for schools, and whether the parent council favour an increase in property taxes if required to support programming.

The Committee discussed the budget questions outlined in the brochure. Committee members agreed that the most important issue for their schools was the need for better access to wifi and reliable technology to support remote learning. The Committee also recommended additional rules for wearing masks on school property and ensuring proper social distancing protocols are being practiced outdoors and after school hours.

Trustee Edel informed Committee members that their concerns and feedback were very helpful and that the issues presented would be brought to the Board of Trustees.

3. **Renaming of Cecil Rhodes School**

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees approved a motion on October 5, 2020, that the administration begin a consultation process to engage students, parents/guardians and members of the community on the interest of renaming Cecil Rhodes School and that the results of the consultation be provided to the Board of Trustees no later than March 15th, 2021.

The Committee was informed that the request to review the name of Cecil Rhodes School was in response to a petition with 1,700 signatures requesting that the Board of Trustees consider a name change. The Committee was informed that while the history of Cecil Rhodes includes an acknowledgement of business contributions and achievements, he is also known for his involvement and support in politics which upheld segregationist policies against non-white citizens of South Africa.

The Committee was informed that the administration is in the process of obtaining feedback from a variety of stakeholders. The consultation process will include current students attending Cecil Rhodes School as well as former students. The students will receive the history of Cecil Rhodes and have an opportunity to discuss the name of the school and share different perspectives.

The administration will also be consulting with staff, parents, and the community to obtain feedback. The WSD website will provide an opportunity for people to complete a survey to provide feedback.

The Committee discussed and agreed they would like to be educated further on the renaming of Cecil Rhodes School. The Committee agreed that it was an important issue and that a school name should reflect the community.

4. **School Resource Officers**

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees received presentations, petitions and correspondence from individuals requesting the removal of SRO's in schools mainly due to their role, and interactions with students. As a result, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the School Resource Officer Program (SRO) be referred to the Finance/Personnel Committee for discussion. On November 16, 2020, the Board of Trustees gave direction to the administration to develop a comprehensive consultation process to evaluate the SRO program.

The Committee was informed that the administration is in the process of developing a survey to obtain feedback from students, staff and parents/guardians. A third party will be retained to consult with WSD community members and organizations to collect and compile feedback on the SRO Program.

The Committee discussed the SRO program and many student representatives commented that they felt that having officers in the schools may cause anxiety for some students. Committee members suggested that having social workers or other community workers in the schools may be more appropriate than the SRO's.

Trustee Edel informed the Committee that an evaluation of the program is underway to ensure input from all stakeholders. It is anticipated that the evaluation will be completed in February/March, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

YIJIE CHEN
Trustee Representative

In Attendance:

Voting Representative

Grant Park High School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Elmwood High School
Gordon Bell High School
Sisler High School
Children of the Earth High School
Argyle Alternative High School
Tec Voc High School
College Churchill

Administration

Julie Smerchanski, Director
Patricia Mainville, Principal Argyle Alternative High School
Vinh Huynh, Principal Gordon Bell High School
Josephine Audino, Principal College Churchill
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Trustees

Betty Edel
Chris Broughton (Regrets)

Regrets

Churchill High School
Kelvin High School
R.B. Russell High School
St. John's High School
Winnipeg Adult Education Centre