

**THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION**  
**STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – May 12, 2016**

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The Committee members approved the Agenda of May 12, 2016, as distributed.

**2. SAFE AND CARING POLICY – TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE STUDENT AND STAFF**

Committee members received a video presentation on the Safe and Caring Policy – Trans and Gender Diverse Students and Staff. Your Committee was informed that the Winnipeg School Division strives for students to receive a high quality education in a safe, equitable and inclusive school environment. The Division is committed to providing learning opportunities, dignity, respect and equity for all. Your Committee was informed that the Safe and Caring Policy – Trans and Gender Diverse Students and Staff is intended to support all students and employees. The policy compliments existing provincial legislation, including the Public School Act and the Safe Schools Charter. In addition the policy strives to encourage the positive mental health among trans and gender creative students within the Winnipeg School Division and staff.

Committee members were informed that the draft policy includes a comprehensive list of definitions and terms. All employees, students, volunteers and trustees are responsible for ensuring their conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning and working environment for everyone. The specific responsibilities outlined in the draft policy will ensure effective and respectful support for individual needs.

Committee members were informed that the Winnipeg School Division Code of Conduct is a key supporting document for the policy and essentially requires everyone to respect the rights of all students and staff with regard to their gender identity and gender expression, and be aware of unacceptable behaviours, such as bullying, harassment, violence or discrimination. Your Committee was informed that the policy also includes guidelines for dealing with conflict.

Committee members were informed that students' and staff safety is the highest priority for the Winnipeg School Division.

Committee were informed that there are eight guiding principles for administering the policy consistently within all schools across the Winnipeg School Division.

- Direction on how to maintain student records for Trans and Gender Diverse students;
- Communication with parents or guardians;
- The right of students and employees to be addressed by their preferred name and pronoun;
- How to minimize gender segregated sorting – whether it is educational, recreational or competitive;
- Access to all-gender washrooms and appropriate change rooms; the use of an all gender washroom is a matter of choice and not mandatory;
- Arrangements for overnight trips, excursions and camps to provide accommodations that best address the needs of the students;

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- Access to activities and sports regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;
- And school dress codes that ensure students have the right to dress in a manner consistent with their gender identity or expression.

Committee members were informed that the video to clarify the intent of the policy as well as a survey is posted on the Division's website [www.wsd1.org](http://www.wsd1.org). The deadline to receive feedback regarding the draft policy is May 20, 2016.

**3. ABORIGINAL CULTURE EDUCATION**

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss Aboriginal Culture Education in the Winnipeg School Division. Mr. Rob Riel, Director of Aboriginal Education & Newcomer Services was in attendance to provide an outline of the initiatives undertaken by the Division.

Committee members were informed that the Winnipeg School Division has implemented a wide variety of initiatives to support Aboriginal education, Aboriginal students and Aboriginal staff.

Committee members were informed that Children of the Earth High School (Grade 9 to 12), and Niji Mahkwa School (nursery to Grade 8), offer academic courses, Aboriginal language classes (Cree and Ojibwe) and cultural programming.

Committee members were also informed that the WSD adopted an Aboriginal Education Policy in 1996, which was revised in 2005.

Committee members were informed that in 2009, the WSD began a pilot to implement the Treaty Education Initiative (TEI) in all elementary schools (Grade 6) beginning in 2011. The goal of this provincial program is to increase the knowledge and understanding of the treaties and the treaty relationship and their impact on the creation of Manitoba, while building bridges between all peoples.

Committee members were informed that every school in the WSD is involved in the Aboriginal Academic Achievement Initiative, which allows schools to support Aboriginal students and encourages understanding of Aboriginal culture by all students through the development of support documents, integration of Aboriginal perspectives in the curricula, provision of opportunities for cultural activities and enhancement of the involvement of parents/guardians. Fifteen schools participate in Building Student Success with Aboriginal Parents initiative, which promotes parent engagement activities that aim to improve student success at school.

To date, Aboriginal education initiatives are woven throughout nursery to Grade 12 curricula across all WSD schools.

Committee members were informed that the WSD's Aboriginal education team consists of nine positions: a director, a consultant, five support teachers, four graduation coaches, five literacy intervention support teachers, two Aboriginal language support teachers and an Aboriginal guidance counsellor. WSD employs 30 Community Support Workers for Aboriginal students and families. The workers act as liaisons, strengthening each school's connection with both the home and the community. They facilitate workshops for parents, maintain community rooms in schools and promote programs and activities that encourage and support these relationships.

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Committee members were informed that ongoing professional development in Aboriginal education and the integration of Aboriginal perspectives in all curriculum areas is offered to teachers and administrators in WSD. To increase the number of Aboriginal teachers in WSD, the Community-Based Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (CATEP) was created in collaboration with University of Winnipeg and Seven Oaks School Division during the 2005/06 school year. The program gives Aboriginal employees in the Winnipeg School Division the opportunity to study education at the University of Winnipeg over a six-year-period. Fifteen teachers graduated from the first two classes of CATEP. Presently, the WSD has 29 staff enrolled in the program.

Committee members were also informed that in 2015, the Board of Trustees established an Aboriginal Council on Indigenous Education to provide feedback to the Winnipeg School Division Board of Trustees on matters relating to the teaching, learning and cultural needs of First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students in the Winnipeg School Division as contemplated by its Aboriginal Education Policy (IGABA).

Committee members discussed that aboriginal studies and history classes have been reduced in some schools. Committee members were advised to speak to the principal and request language classes.

Committee members were informed that the Division has a program called AYLP – Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program offered to students which they can earn credits. Students get together and participate in activities, medicine picking, and elder teachings.

#### **4. DRESS CODE**

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss the Dress Code in the Winnipeg School Division.

Committee members were informed that the Winnipeg School Division's Code of Conduct states students should dress appropriately for classes and school activities. Schools often have school specific dress codes or requirements.

Committee members were informed that in most schools, the dress code is outlined for all students at the first all-school assembly of the year and reminders are done at following assemblies. Students are also verbally told of the dress code during homeroom on the first day of classes. Issues are addressed on an individual basis when they occur.

Committee members discussed some of the school-based dress codes which mainly refer to; the wearing of any head wear except for religious or cultural reasons, display of colours or symbols which are considered threatening or offensive to others; shorts or summer wear; or overly inappropriate clothing.

Committee members also discussed whether students dressed inappropriately should be asked to change clothing or instructed to go home to change. In most cases, students felt they should not be sent home to change.

Committee members discussed the dress code within their specific schools and suggested that the dress code should be universal for both females and males. Your Committee also discussed that in order to prepare ourselves for the workforce, all students should dress appropriately and that the dress code should be reasonable and consistent in all schools.

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Committee members were informed that administration is reviewing the possibility of including dress codes in the “Tell them from Me Survey” next year.

**5. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS**

SCHOOL REPORTS

Student representatives from the following school provided a written report (attached) on school activities:

- Argyle Alternative High School
- Children of the Earth
- R.B. Russell Vocational High School
- Technical Vocational High School

Elmwood High School

Committee members were informed of the following event at Elmwood High School:

- Spirit Week

Gordon Bell High School

Committee members were informed of the following events at Gordon Bell High School:

- Preparing a Community Garden
- Green space
- Mental Health Week

Sisler High School

Committee members were informed of the following event at Sisler High School:

- Mental Health Week

Everybody has the Right

Committee members were informed that over 2,000 Winnipeg School Division students are walking a circle around the Canadian Museum of Human Rights on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> the marks the finale of another successful year of incorporating Everybody has the Right programming into WSD’s everyday curriculum and learning. Schools created silk art banners and will be carried as they walk along the walking path. Committee members were informed that the master of ceremonies will be Ace Burpee, and Kevin Lamoureux, Member of Parliament, and Kevin Chief, Member of Legislative Assembly will also be in attendance.

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Twitter

Committee members were encouraged to use twitter which is an excellent way of communicating if something is happening in your school and you want everyone to be aware of it. So many good things are happening in our schools and we would love to know everything.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Freedman thanked the students for their time and continuous dedication to the Committee. Certificates of Appreciation will be distributed to students at the end of the school year.

**Student Representatives:**

Argyle Alternative High School  
Elmwood High School  
Gordon Bell High School  
R. B Russell Vocational High School  
Sisler High School  
Technical Vocational High School

**Trustees:**

Kevin Freedman

**Administration:**

Rob Riel, Director of Aboriginal Education & Newcomer Services  
Gil Richard, Staff Advisor, Argyle Alternative High School  
Justin Dyck, Staff Advisor, Gordon Bell High School  
Katharine Thiessen, Staff Advisory, R.B. Russell Vocational High School  
Karen Stuart, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:**

Trustee Lisa Naylor  
Children of the Earth High School  
Churchill High School  
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute  
Kelvin High School

In addition to previous items submitted we include the following.

- On March 18 staff took part in a “Positive Psychology” work shop where teacher were exposed to idea of sustained happiness. Through discussion and group activates staff share what happiness meant to them and were introduced to various topics related to this concept. In the afternoon staff took part in a “Happiness Scavenger Hunt” Their task was to take photographs of items that best represent the topics introduced in the morning.
- Argyle hosted it’s open house on April 7<sup>th</sup> with great success
- Argyle continues to support “Mindfulness” through staff info sessions/workshops which give teachers opportunity to learn techniques and activities to share with students.

- On March 15 Children of the Earth hosted a career fair for all current students as well as students from Niji Mahkwa. Students were able to talk to representatives from participating Universities, colleges and various trade opportunities.
- March 16 we held our annual spring feast and awards ceremony. Families and community members were invited to join the students in the feast and awards were given in recognition of students on our honour roll and high attendance rankings.
- Our student diversity group attended the Voices into Action launch event at Tec Voc on April 14. Presentations were interesting and student felt they could connect with what was being presented.
- April 21 was our school open house. Many parents and community members visited the school to see all the hard work and wonderful activities that are happening in the school. As well we had a number of junior high schools visit for tours of Children of the Earth. During the open house our student grad committee held a fundraising bake sale to raise money to go towards grad. All baked goods were donated by grade 12 students and staff and was a big success.
- On April 23 our student co-op held another Art sale at Kildonan place shopping centre. Spring art sale included signed and framed Aboriginal paintings, adult colouring books, night lights, cards, bookmarks, and more!
- We have a group of students in grades 9-11 that will be attending the diversity march on May 20, this will be an exciting day and we look forward to being a part of this celebration.
- Children of the Earth is celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Friday June 3, we encourage everyone to visit our school and celebrate with us.

RB Russell Vocational High School

May 12, 2016

Student Advisory

In the past few months our school has offered the following to our students:

- Bike club
- Ski club
- Wellness week activities
  - Friday was a day at U of M where students could try archery, wall climbing, wall-e ball, etc.
- Sweats
- Nomads Football Camp
- Track and field
- Slo-pitch
- KC Adams came in to do a artists workshop for our Art students
- Self-defence has started
- Janie and rose care packages for women shelter –received rant to create
- Gowns for grad
- Swim club
- Canoe trip
- Student concert –may 27<sup>th</sup>
- Drivers Ed
- 3 language credits
- Open house

Dress codes

I don't think that there should be a dress code.

Why because students should be able to dress the way they want and feel comfortable and confident in what they are wearing. The colors of the clothing shouldn't label the student as a "gang member" or "associate" as the teachers say. In my opinion people who are targeted in racial profiling are usually aboriginals. <sup>some</sup> People



## **Student Advisory Committee – Report Technical Vocational High School**

- **Career Fair:** On March 23, grade 10 students spent their morning presenting to judges about their future career goals. Then followed an awarding of medals in the afternoon.
- **Spirit Week:** From March 21 to 25, a spirit week was held and included things like: Twin Day, Formal Day, Way Back Wednesday, and Grade Colours Day.
- **Gym Blast:** On March 25, a Gym blast was successfully held after many years, which took place in the hornet dome. Each grade (9 to 12) competed each other through different games. Tug of war, limbo, and many other games were played. This year, grade 11's took the big win.
- **Travel Club:** From March 25 to April 1, Students in the travel club flew to Paris and London.
- **Day of Silence:** On April 15, students signed up to take part in the Day of Silence.
- **Pink Day:** On April 13, staff and students participated in Pink Day.
- **Skills Manitoba:** For this year's Skills Manitoba, Tec Voc had 17 medalists and 6 gold winners.
- **Blood Drive:** Once again a group of students went to go donate blood.
- **Student Vote:** For the Manitoba elections, students took part in casting their own votes.
- **Dance Rally:** A Dance rally was held at lunch in the theatre on May 6, where students in DTC (Dance Tec Company) had a face off once again with the staff and teachers. The teachers continued their winning streak.
- **Dance Manitoba:** This year our own very DTC (Dance Tec Company) placed 1<sup>st</sup> place overall with elite gold at the Canadian National Dance Competition.

### **Future Plans / Events:**

- **Community Clean Up**
- **Spring Concert**
- **TecStock XIII**
- **Fun In The Field Day / Carnival Mini Games**