

## THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

### STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, February 19, 2020

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#### 1. TREATY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee members acknowledged that the meeting is being held on Treaty One Land and the Traditional Homeland of the Metis Nation.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee members approved the Agenda of February 19, 2020, as distributed.

#### 3. 2020/2021 DRAFT BUDGET

Committee members received an overview of the 2020/2021 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that on January 30, 2020, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. Committee members were informed that the Manitoba government will increase funding for public schools by more than \$6.6 million for the 2020/2021 school year. Committee members were informed that school divisions also raise revenue through local education property taxes. Committee members were informed that the Manitoba government is again requesting that school divisions limit increases to education property taxes to a maximum of two per cent for the 2020/2021 school year.

Committee members were informed that the enrollment has decreased by approximately 350 students which has contributed to a reduction in provincial funding. Committee members were also informed that the province has announced a 15% reduction in administrative positions.

Committee members received an overview on the program and services not mandated by the province. In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Division offers a full day Kindergarten Program and also provides a half day of program for residents in the Division. The province only funds the half day Kindergarten program.

In response to a student enquiry, Committee members were informed that the special education programs, resources for people with disabilities and Educational Assistants will not be affected for the 2020/2021 school year since the Board is proposing a stand pat budget which maintains all programs and services in the WSD.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that milk is subsidized in the schools as part of a healthy lunch. Committee members were informed that an update on the actual cost of the milk will be provided at the next meeting.

#### **4. PROVINCIAL K-12 EDUCATION REVIEW**

Committee members were informed that the Commission would be releasing the report to the Minister of Education and Training in February 2020. It is anticipated that the report would be publically released in March 2020, which will include recommendations on the key topic areas identified by the Province. School Boards would not have the ability to provide input on the recommendations and would be obligated to implement the recommendations within the timelines established by the Province. The report and recommendations will be shared with parents indicating the next steps to be in compliance with the direction from the Minister of Education.

Committee members were informed that an update on the recommendations outlined in the report will be provided at the next meeting.

#### **5. NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS**

At a meeting held November 20, 2019, Committee members agreed to discuss nutrition in schools.

Committee members were provided with Policy IGAEA – Nutrition which outlines the Division's responsibility to promote and support nutrition in schools by ensuring that healthy food choices predominate in school cafeterias, breakfast and lunch programs, canteens, vending machines, snack programs, fundraising activities and school-wide events. The policy is in compliance with the Manitoba School Nutrition Handbook.

In response to an enquiry regarding vending machines in schools, Committee members were informed that the Division tenders vending machines in schools including the products available. Committee members suggested that plastic water bottles in schools also be reviewed and eliminated.

Committee members were informed that Sisler High School has a program "Ban the Bottle" and would like to have the vending machines removed from the school. Committee members were informed that some schools are fundraising to support the costs of water filling stations rather than fountains. Committee members were informed that sustainable development is part of the Division's five-year plan which is also identified as one of the Strategic Priorities.

Committee members were informed that that there is some concern with cafeteria options being available for students who do not eat meat and dairy products. Committee members were encouraged to discuss with the school principal. Committee members also requested information on bake sales in schools. Committee members were informed that information will be provided at the next Student Advisory meeting.

#### **6. COMPOSTING IN SCHOOLS**

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss composting in schools.

Committee members were provided with a copy of Education for Sustainable Development Plan for 2019-2021. Committee members were informed that schools in the Division are moving towards composting. Committee members were informed that each school can determine how to compost and that the proper facility is needed to compost.

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Committee members were informed that the WSD is one of the leaders in sustainability not only with composting but also with changing to different lightbulbs and changing water taps which leads to saving energy and money.

Committee members were informed that Grant Park High School has a well implemented composting program however the school is experiencing some difficulty in maintaining the program. Committee members were also informed that the compost is used by the horticulture program.

In response to a student enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Division supports climate change and climate action. Committee members were informed that parents are encouraged to contact the school to confirm student participation at a climate event.

## **7. MUSIC/ARTS/HONOUR CHOIR**

At the request of Committee members, the topic of music, arts and honour choir was added to the agenda for discussion.

A student representative expressed concern regarding the availability of volunteers to organize the honour choir. Committee members were informed that consideration will be given to providing additional opportunities next school year.

## **8. FOR INFORMATION**

### **8.1 Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions**

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 16, 2019, the Board of Trustees received the Student Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussions as information. The Summary of Discussions have been distributed to Committee members the week of December 16<sup>th</sup>.

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.

[www.winnipegssd.ca/Parents/Parent%20Council/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.winnipegssd.ca/Parents/Parent%20Council/Pages/Default.aspx)

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Student Advisory Committee will be held Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

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**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Student Representatives:**

Collège Churchill  
Churchill High School  
Gordon Bell High School  
Grant Park High School  
École Kelvin High School  
R.B. Russell High School  
Sisler High School

**Regrets:**

Argyle Alternative  
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute  
Elmwood High School

**Administration:**

Rob Riel, Director of Indigenous Education  
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary, Board of Trustees

**Trustees:**

Trustee Arlene Reid

**Regrets:**

Trustee Jamie Dumont