

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – MAY 9, 2017

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. GREEN ACTION CENTRE

Committee members received a presentation by Green Action Centre – Active and Safe Routes to Schools. Active and Safe Routes to School is a comprehensive community-based initiative that taps into the increasingly urgent demand for safe, walkable neighbourhoods. Active and Safe Routes to School promotes the use of active and efficient transportation for the daily trip to school, addressing health and traffic safety issues while taking action on air pollution and climate change.

Committee members were informed that over the past 30 years, the habit of walking to school has seen a steep decline. Studies have shown that almost 80% of children used to walk to school, compared to 35% today.

Active and Safe Routes to Schools can assist schools with helping to implement programs such as Walking/Cycling School Buses, Walking Wednesday Club, Neighbourhood Walkability Surveys, Pick-ups and Drop-off Zones, No-Idling Zones, Mapping activities, Clean Air Day, International Walk to School Month, School Travel Planning.

Committee members were informed that the School Travel Planning Program addresses the issue of sustainability, safety and health associated with the “school run” using a collaborative community based approach. School Travel Planning works closely with school administration and staff, parents, public health professionals, children, municipal officials and police. Benefits include reduced traffic congestion at schools, safe, active alternative to driving, increased physical activity and links to improved learning.

For more information on the program or to have a presentation please contact Green Action Centre, Active and Safe Routes to School by email at asrts@greenactioncentre.ca or by phone at 204-925-3773.

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3. GRANTS

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss Grants. Committee members were informed that the Winnipeg School Division's website has information on applying for Grants and developing Funding Proposals.

<https://www.winnipegssd.ca/About%20WSD/grants-funding-proposal-information/Pages/default.aspx>

Committee members were informed that the Division's website also provides a document to support Grant writing skills.

Committee members were informed that the Division's website has a fully searchable online database of Corporate and Foundation funding opportunities for non-profit and charities call Big Online. Students who may be interested in applying for funding to support school projects are encouraged to discuss the details of their proposal with their respective school principals and to request assistance in accessing the database.

The Division has various requirements when applying to outside agencies that must be met for funding and most applications, representatives of the Division are required to enter into a contract.

4. SCHOOL YEAR STRUCTURE

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss the school year structure. Committee members were informed that although the Division has some ability in scheduling professional development days, in accordance with the *Public Schools Act* Section 76 *Regulations re school year, vacations and school hours* the number of days in the school year will vary from year to year depending upon the date of the first Tuesday following Labour Day. Up to a maximum of ten non-instructional days can be used for teacher in-service, parent-student conferences, administration and pupil evaluation. Of these ten days, five must be used for teacher in-service. The instructional time per week from kindergarten to grade 8 is approximately 1,650 minutes.

Committee members discussed altering the school start day to a later time to provide for an increased opportunity for students to be more alert and learn more effectively. Committee members were informed that the Board has reviewed the possibility of staggered bus times for younger grades, although it was being discussed for possible reductions to transportation costs.

Committee members were informed that the Board recently approved a pilot of online course delivery for interested high school students for the 2017/2018 school year. Committee members were also encouraged to discuss scheduling with their respective school's guidance counsellor.

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5. NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS – CAFETERIA MEALS

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss nutrition in schools. Committee members were informed that in accordance with Manitoba School Nutrition Handbook www.gov.mb.ca/healthyschools/foodinschools/documents/handbook.pdf the Division's Policy IGAEA – Nutrition outlines the Division's responsibility to promote and support good 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.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees has recently referred the development of a Special Committee entitled "Winnipeg School Division Food Issues Council" to review WSD policies and programs related to food issues involving the Division, to the Governance Committee for consideration.

Committee members discussed whether nutritional information should be included on items being served in school cafeterias as some items served to students may not be deemed healthy choices in accordance with Nutrition Guidelines.

Committee members discussed creating breakfast programs at their school. Committee members were advised to contact their school administrator and research the possibility of the provision of grants.

6. STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FACEBOOK PAGE

At previous Student Advisory Committee meetings, members discussed the possibility of creating a Facebook page dedicated to the members of the Committee in order to discuss topics of interest and share ideas that have been implemented and successful in their respective schools. A Facebook invitation has been extended to all high school student council members in the Division. In addition to encouraging communications with other schools, students may wish to share school related matters such as school fundraisers, events and student/school accomplishments.

The Chair of the Student Advisory Committee will have the ability to accept requests, monitor and moderate comments. The Division will also assist in monitoring content.

The Committee was informed that the Facebook page is a closed forum that would require anyone interested to currently have a Facebook account and would require a request for membership.

The link is found here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/178847305942792/>

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7. STUDENT ADVISORY REPORTS AND SUMMARIES OF DISCUSSIONS

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held March 13, 2017, the Board of Trustees received the previous meeting's Student Advisory Committee Summary of Discussions as information. Committee members were informed that once received by the Board, Student Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Student tab.

www.winnipegssd.ca/students/studentinformation/Pages/StudentAdvisoryCommittee.aspx

8. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- Sisler High School

Argyle Alternative High School

Committee members were informed of the following events at Argyle Alternative High School

- Sweats
- Smudge, Yoga, Tai Chi for Mental Health Awareness Week

Elmwood High School

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

- Wellness Day – Variety of activities

R.B. Russell Vocational High School

Committee members were informed of the following events at R.B. Russell Vocational High School:

- Spring Cleanup
- Drum Group
- Teepee being put up for Aboriginal Day
- 50th Anniversary
- Sweat Lodge

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.

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Student Representatives:

Argyle Alternative High School
Elmwood High School
R. B Russell Vocational High School
Sisler High School

Regrets:

Churchill High School
College Churchill
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
Gordon Bell High School
Grant Park High School
Kelvin High School
Tec Voc High School

Administration:

Doug Edmond, Director, Research, Planning & Technology Services
Anna-Maria Coniglio, Staff Advisor, Argyle Alternative High School
Pamela Potter, Staff Advisory, R.B. Russell Vocational High School
Katharine Thiessen, Staff Advisor, R.B. Russell Vocational High School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Kevin Freedman
Arlene Reid

May 09, 2017

Sisler High School

April 2017

1) Dis for Dat Spirit Week.

- Dance at lunch hour

2.) Global Medical Aid held a blood drive where over 20 students joined

3. Aboriginal Networking Group collected 350 books during their book collection. These donations will be donated to Aboriginal reserves in Manitoba.

4. Hope for the Homeless raised money from Staff vs Varsity game

2.) Mental Health Week – May 1-5

- Monday: Grand Opening – performances from Sisler Jazz Choir and other participants, karaoke

-Tuesday- Furry Friends Day – invited Happy Tails Pet Adoption Centre to bring dogs to the school; raised \$300 from ticket sales

-Wednesday- Zumba day – volunteer from Zumba Winnipeg lead 30 students in a Zumba class, RBC Olympian Colin Mathieson arrived for a speech about mental wellness and physical health

-Thursday- old school TV – over 50 students participated; screened Zack and Cody, Fresh Prince of Bel-Air, and Drake and Josh; popcorn sale

-Friday – feel good day- outdoor activities in the field (egg relay, tug of war, relay race), flash mob performance, popcorn and ice cream sale

3.) Sisler Senior Week may 9-12

Tuesday black and red day; Generation Peace's Bubble Soccer tournament

Wednesday Whiteboard Wednesday; Sisler High Against Cancer's Brave the Shave in support of Cancer Care Manitoba; girl empowerment's pizza sale

Thursday Sisler-chella

Friday - Red carpet Friday