

INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2021

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 16, 2021

The Inner City District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. WSD 2021/2022 Budget Consultation

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide an overview on the draft Budget for the 2021/2022 school year.

The Committee was informed that on February 4, 2021, the Province of Manitoba announced an increase in education funding of \$20.8 million dollars. This resulted in a decrease in funding from the province of 1.6% or \$2.9 million dollars and an additional reduction from other revenue resources such as the Federal government of \$1.3 million dollars. As a result, the Board of Trustees is required to reduce almost \$5 million in programs in order to achieve a balanced budget of \$421,039,405. As directed by the Provincial Government, the property tax levy for WSD home and business owners will be frozen at 2020 levels or a decrease of about \$6 a year on the average assessed home value of \$225,700 within in WSD.

The Committee was informed that the reduction in the provincial budget along with the two percent cap on the special levy has created a deficit that requires WSD to reduce programs and/or services in order to achieve a balanced budget for the 2021/2022 school year.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees drafted a proposed list of reductions to be made including School Resource Officers, Unfilled divisional support position vacancies, Occupational/ Physiotherapy, Milk Subsidy Program, Utility savings, School Budgets (non-salary), and School Clerk positions(12 month to 10 month).

The Committee was informed that a list of non-mandated programs is available under Financial Facts on the WSD website.

The Committee expressed concern regarding the proposed reduction to Occupational/ Physiotherapy programming. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees will request a meeting with the province to request that funding be provided by the WRHA for the delivery of the program. The Committee was informed that in the event that WRHA is unable to subsidize the costs of the Occupational/ Physiotherapy program the Board of Trustees would need to re-examine the list of non-mandated programs to determine in what other areas reductions could be made to balance the budget.

A parent representative expressed concern that access to these programs outside of the school environment is very costly and for many families this is a vital resource which would no longer be available to their children if it is not offered in the school.

The Committee recommended that the Board and the administration consider other options to retain the Occupational/ Physiotherapy program in the event that Health Services is unable to subsidize the program.

The Committee was informed that initially the SRO program began as a tripartite agreement between the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and WSD, for the delivery of service and was equally funded by all parties. In recent years, the province does not provide funding to support for any increases and WSD has supplemented the difference to support the continuation of the

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program. The Board of Trustees will continue discussions with the City and Province regarding alternate options for the SRO program.

Trustee Chen informed The Committee that the Board of Trustees will be hosting a Special meeting on February 22nd to receive feedback from delegations regarding the 2021/2022 Budget. Anyone wishing to provide a delegation would need to register with the Board Office prior to February 18, 2021 at noon, and that any feedback in writing should be submitted no later than March 1, 2021. All feedback will be taken into consideration by the Board of Trustees prior to finalizing the Budget. The Budget must be submitted to the Province of Manitoba by March 15, 2021.

2. CECIL RHODES SCHOOL

The Committee was informed that the surveys have been completed and that the administration is reviewing the results of the survey. The results of the survey will be presented to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting for review and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

YIJIE CHEN
Trustee Representative

Inner City District Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2021**In Attendance:****Voting Representatives**

Argyle Alternative High School
Children of the Earth School
General Wolfe School
Gordon Bell High School
Hugh John Macdonald School
John M. King School
Mulvey School
R.B. Russell High School
Sister MacNamara School
Strathcona School
William Whyte School

Regrets

David Livingstone School
Dufferin School
Fort Rouge School
King Edward School
Machray School
Niji Mahkwa School
Norquay School
Pinkham School
Victoria-Albert School
Wellington School

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services
Paul Kochan, Secretary-Treasurer
Patricia Mainville, Principal Argyle Alternative High School
Nichola Batzel, Principal Children of the Earth High School
Stacie Edgar, Principal Fort Rouge School
Vinh Huynh, Principal Gordon Bell High School
Matthew Adkins, Principal Hugh John Macdonald School
Lucy Schnaider, Principal John M. King School
Peter Correia, Principal Mulvey School
Debbie Gould, Principal Niji Mahkwa School
Debbie Lenhardt Mair, Principal Sister MacNamara School
Susan Darazsi, Principal Strathcona School
Brenda Langton, Principal Wellington School
Wendy Verbong Principal William Whyte School
Colin Bruce-Smith, Vice-Principal Norquay School
Daniel Braga, Vice-Principal William Whyte School
Paul Krowiak, Principal R.B. Russell School
Tanis Westdale, Principal Machray School
Cree Crowchild, Principal Norquay School
Dimitrios Anastasiadis, Vice-Principal Gordon Bell School
Fernando Batista, Vice-Principal John M. King School
Jeremy Milford, Vice-Principal Strathcona School
James Ferguson, Vice-Principal Wellington School
Keith Bousquet, Vice-Principal Victoria-Albert School
Lisa Richardson, Vice-Principal David Livingstone School
Melissa Asmundson, Vice-Principal Dufferin School
Monique Russell, Vice-Principal Hugh John Macdonald
Julie Hacro, Community Support Worker
Terri Chubala, Community Support Worker
Ciaran August, Community Support Worker
Ursula Rosseau, Community Support Worker
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Jennifer Chen
Betty Edel (Regrets)