

**SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2018**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 20, 2018

The South District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. 2018/2019 Draft Budget Discussion**

The Committee was provided with an overview of the 2018/2019 Draft Budget.

The Committee was informed that on February 8, 2017, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The increase for all of Manitoba for 2018/2019 is .5% or \$6.6 million dollars. The Committee was informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division is tied to the number of students enrolled in the Division and equals an increase of .3% or \$600,000 over last year's funding.

The Committee was informed that the Division's costs increase every year due to inflation on required expenses such as Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance Premiums and Payroll Taxes. The Committee was informed that even with the Province's introduction of wage freezes for public sector employees, including teachers, salary increments earned by Division staff must be accounted for in the 2018/2019 budget.

The Committee was informed that the Minister encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2%. The Committee was informed that special requirement is based on the school year and property taxes are based on a calendar year. The Committee was informed that the 2% special requirement equals 3.29% property tax increase in the Division for 2018. The Committee was informed that the Province also announced that it will phase out the tax incentive grant over the next six years.

The Committee was provided with three possible options based on meeting a 2% or 3% special requirement.

The Committee was informed that one option is a 2% special requirement or 3.29% property tax and is based on proposed additions for Health and Safety enhancements, additional resources for program and policy analysis and no reductions to existing programs and services.

The Committee was informed that an alternative option is a 2% special requirement or 3.29% property tax increase and is based on proposed additions for additional resources for program and policy analysis, financial software expenditures, building maintenance, school specialty programming promotional signage, additional teaching support for the Aerospace Program at Tec Voc High School, Health and Safety enhancements, online course delivery and school program additions such as additional funding to support students in care who are 18 to 21 years of age, Morningstar program, Inner City Science Centre. The Committee was informed that proposed reductions to this option include discontinuing the School Resource Officer program, Full-Day Kindergarten program reduction to half-day, converting summer school program to an online course delivery model, reduction of travel budgets and vacancy management.

The Committee was informed that a third option is a 3% special requirement or 3.71% property tax increase and is based on proposed additions such as additional resources for program and policy analysis, building maintenance, school specialty programming promotional signage, additional teaching support for the Aerospace Program at Tec Voc High School, Health and Safety enhancements, online course delivery and school program additions such as additional funding to support students in care who are 18 to 21 years of age, Morningstar program, Inner City Science Centre. This option is based on no reductions to existing programs and services.

The Committee was informed that a 2% special requirement or 3.29% increase on property taxes for education is approximately \$45 per year on the average assessed home value of \$214,200.

The Committee expressed concern on the reduction to staffing resources. The Committee was informed that the Division could see a savings of \$1,652,900 through vacancy management. The Committee was informed that approximately twenty positions would not be replaced through attrition.

The Committee expressed concern on the reduction to the full day Kindergarten program. The Committee was informed that although the program is not mandated by the Province, several Board members support retaining the program.

The Committee expressed concern that reductions to the full day Kindergarten program would result in parents struggling to find daycare spaces.

The Committee was informed that the Board advocates on behalf of the Division to continue discussions with the Province and seek alternatives to education funding. The Committee was encouraged to contact their MLA, Premier or Minister of Education to share their opinions of education funding.

The Committee was informed that the Board continues to seek ways to increase revenues. The Committee was informed that the Board has approved the establishment of an International Education Program which will result in a net revenue of \$501,900.

The Committee was informed that at a meeting held October 2, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the Division enter into a three-year contract with the City of Winnipeg for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program for the period September 2017 to June 2020.

The Division, the Province and the City of Winnipeg are each responsible for paying one-third of the program, and although not required under the Public Schools Act, the Division is required to increase the Special Levy to support this valuable program and provide the much needed resources that keep our school communities safe for our students.

Although the Province informed the Division that no further funding would be forthcoming, the Board has requested a meeting with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Justice to discuss the importance of the School Resource Officer Program, the financial impact on school divisions and the importance of the Department of Justice to financially support the educational component of justice through the SROs in the public school system and community.

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The Committee was informed that the Division's Building Department does regular inspections on all buildings to identify necessary upgrades. Many schools in the Division are 60 to 100 years old. A number of projects have been deferred in previous budgets to ensure programs and services could be maintained. These items, such as window replacements and plumbing upgrades, become more serious with each passing year and need to be addressed. The Committee was also informed that the Division submits a Five-Year Capital Plan yearly which identifies and prioritizes maintenance, repairs or additions. The Committee was informed that the Public Schools Finance Board assists the Division with capital projects, other repairs become the responsibility of the Division.

The Committee was informed that the Provincial Government has introduced a bill (Bill 28) that establishes a four-year sustainability period during which the compensation for public sector employees may not be increased except by the percentages permitted by the Bill. In the first two years of the sustainability period, unionized and non-unionized public sector employees receive no pay increase. In the third year, a maximum of 0.75% is permitted and in the fourth year a maximum increase of 1.0% is permitted.

The Committee was informed that the current provincial government has suggested that a review of school division amalgamation will take place after the 2018 municipal elections.

The Committee was informed that amalgamation may eliminate some of Manitoba's 37 school boards and would cut administration costs and save tax dollars, although it may achieve minimal savings at the cost of meeting localized education needs.

The Committee was informed that the members of the Board will continue to seek clarification from the Minister of Education on the intent of amalgamation and share concerns on the impact an amalgamation will have on the Division's ability to provide unique programs and services that are required to support students and community.

The Committee was informed that the Division faces further challenges as downtown growth is promoted under the Community Revitalization Tax Increment Financing Act (TIF). The School Division receives less property taxation for properties identified under TIF designation.

The Committee was informed that the Budget presentation is available on the Winnipeg School Division's website along with a property tax calculator and survey.

The Committee was informed that in addition to budget presentations at District Advisory Committee meetings, information is available on the Division's website. A Public meeting will also be held on February 26, 2018 at Administration Building No. 1, 1577 Wall Street East at 7:00 p.m. to provide budget information to the general public and receive feedback from individuals or groups that may wish to attend as well there is a survey posted on the Division's website [www.winnipegssd.org](http://www.winnipegssd.org). The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 5, 2018. All feedback will be considered by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 12, 2018.

**2. Policy – EEA – Transportation of Pupils**

The Committee was informed that at a previous meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the motion that on an interim basis, Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be revised to include provisions for Courtesy Transportation Services and that the Board would continue its review of the Fee for Service option for possible implementation in the 2018/2019 school year.

The Committee was informed that at a meeting held February 5, 2018, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the revised Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be distributed to District Advisory Committees for discussion.

The Committee received the revised policy which includes provisions for a fee-for-service, and processing fee for those students who meet the criteria under the Courtesy Seat provision. The revisions also include clarification on areas deemed hazardous.

The Committee was informed that the revised policy includes a fee for service cost that would be equivalent to the new City of Winnipeg rates at \$70 per month for a student transit bus pass. The new fees would include a reduced fee of \$35 per month for each additional child effective the 2018/2019 school year. In addition, the policy includes a non-refundable \$25 fee be applied to process applications for those who do not meet eligibility requirements and are applying under the Courtesy Seat / Fee for Service option.

The Committee was informed that the policy also includes a provision for identifying hazardous area considerations, and that the schools identified as a hazard area are to be reviewed by the Transportation Department on an annual basis.

**3. School Names**

In the spring of the 2017, the Committee received a copy of the Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area guideline as well as the biographies of school names. Parent representatives were encouraged to share this information with their respective Parent Advisory Committees and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

The Committee was reminded that parents and school representatives review the background of their school's name and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

The Committee received a copy of the guideline Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area as well as the biographies of school names. The Committee was informed that school's history may be found on the Division's website at [www.winnipegdsd.ca](http://www.winnipegdsd.ca) under the heading *Our Schools*.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHRIS BROUGHTON  
Trustee Representative

**IN ATTENDANCE:****Voting Representatives:**

Beth Smyth, Collège Churchill  
Tanya Sigurdson, Earl Grey School  
Andrea Villeneuve, Grant Park High School  
Lorna Thomas, Grosvenor School  
Lisa Smit-Beiko, Harrow School  
Doug Thiessen, Ecole J.B. Mitchell School  
Lindsay Wright, Queenston School  
Dawn Clarke, Ecole River Heights School  
Orla Nazarko, Ecole Riverview School  
James Wright, Ecole Robert H. Smith School  
Kaleigh Hamilton, Ecole Sir William Osler

**Parent Representatives:**

Carpathia School parent representatives  
Earl Grey School parent representatives  
Harrow School parent representatives

**Trustees:**

Chris Broughton  
Mark Wasyliw  
Sherri Rollins  
Mike Babinsky  
Arlene Reid

**Administration:**

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent  
Julie Millar, Director of Student Services  
Paul Kochan, Chief Financial Officer & Secretary-Treasurer  
Gordon Armstrong, Principal, Carpathia School  
Evelyn Siddall, Principal, Harrow School  
Wade Gregg, Principal, Queenston School  
Susan Drysdale, Vice-Principal, Ecole River Heights School  
Grant Bridgeman, Principal, Ecole Riverview School  
Camie Lawson, Vice-Principal, Ecole Riverview School  
Dominique Ostermann, Ecole Robert H. Smith School  
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

**Non-Voting/Resource Members:**

Earl Grey School Teaching staff  
Harrow School Teaching staff

**Regrets:**

Brock Corydon School  
Gladstone School  
Ecole secondaire Kelvin High School  
Ecole LaVerendrye