

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, June 9, 2015

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. ENROLMENT AND SPACING REQUIREMENTS IN THE SOUTH DISTRICT FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOLS

Committee members were informed that effective September 2015, Sir William Osler School will operate as a second site to École LaVérendrye for students from Nursery to Grade 1. Committee members were informed that the decision came after several months of community consultations and that a town hall meeting was held on May 26 to discuss the results. Committee members were also informed that the Winnipeg School Division is continuing to work out details such as renovations, equipment requirements, daycare and transportation.

Committee members were informed that it is anticipated to have another town hall meeting in November to provide an update to the parents and community.

Committee members were informed of a parent request to establish a Spanish Language Program in the Division as well the Board is exploring possible implementation of an Indigenous Language Program and expansion to the French Immersion Dual Track Program. Committee members were informed these steps are anticipated to help alleviate enrolment in French Immersion Schools.

In response to an enquiry from a parent representative, Trustee Wasyliw informed Committee members that a French International Baccalaureate Program is currently being explored by the Board of Trustees. Committee members were informed that the International Baccalaureate program has been expanded to River Heights School. Committee members were also informed that the Board is also exploring the possibility of an N-8 school, which could be built on the current Sir William Osler property.

3. WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION NEW LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees of the Winnipeg School Division has announced details of the Division's new leadership structure. The new structure is being implemented over the summer before the new school year.

The new leadership structure is an opportunity for the school division to provide more direct support to students, parent and staff. Overall, school support is increasing by realigning schools and assigning five Directors and two Superintendents to work with school administrators. The third Superintendent position will be responsible for Division-Wide Planning and System Services. The senior administration has met with principals to discuss the implementation to be ready for September 2015. The new structure allows for administration costs to be redirected to the classrooms. Further details will be provided next week in terms of appointments.

In response to a Committee member regarding the dispute resolution, Trustee Wasyliw informed Committee members that the protocol will remain as is, however, Ms Brenda Lapointe has been appointed to the Parent/Community Liaison position to provide supports to families and the community as well as assist administration in addressing matters.

Committee members were also informed that the Division is adding a policy analyst position for September 2015.

In response to an enquiry from a Committee member regarding the Provincial 20 K-3 Class Size Initiative, Committee members were informed that there will be some flexibility for schools where enrolment may slightly exceed the 20 student requirement. Your Committee was also informed that the Division is also currently concerned with child care and space requirements and as a result the Board will be reviewing these matters. Your Committee was also informed that recently, trustees met with the Minister of Education regarding equalization funding and special needs funding. These discussions will continue into next year.

4. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

Trustee Rollins acknowledged the tragedy which occurred at Kelvin High school and expressed gratitude to the students for their resiliency and thanked staff for the prompt response in handling the situation.

In response to an enquiry from a Committee member, Trustee Wasyliw indicated that he appreciates the feedback in order to identify areas that can be improved upon and will forward the suggestion that students should be assured after incidents that matters are under control to alleviate the concerns of students.

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SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- École Robert H. Smith School

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Andrea Villeneuve, Grant Park High School
Judy Grossman, J.B. Mitchell School
Matthew Cosway, École LaVérendrye
Jim Cresswell, École Robert H. Smith School

Alternate Representatives

Stacy Huard, École LaVérendrye

Administration:

Julie Millar, Acting Superintendent of Schools – South
Cristina da Mata, Principal, Gladstone School
Grant Bridgeman, Principal, École Riverview School
Tom Rossi, Principal, École Robert H. Smith School
Sharon Labossière, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith School
Wade Gregg, Principal, Queenston School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Collège Churchill
Gladstone School
Grosvenor School
Harrow School
Kelvin High School
Lord Roberts School
Montrose School
Queenston School
Ecole River Heights School
Ecole Riverview School

Trustees:

Sherri Rollins
Mark Wasyliw



École Robert H. Smith School

315 Oak Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3P8
Phone: 488-1137 Fax: 487-1463

T. Rossi
Principal

S. Labossière
Vice Principal

South District Parent Advisory Report For June 9, 2015

1. Our Free Lending Libraries are up and running again. After losing 1 to arson, our Adventure Club built two; one on Oak Street next to the front office and one on Ash Street next to the Nursery Classrooms. A special thanks to Mr. Trickett, one of our parents that donated all the materials and built them. Thanks to Paul at Western Paint for donating all the paint and brushes for the kids to paint them.
2. On May 11th, our staff had a school planning professional development day. The day was dedicated to developing our school plan, goals and priorities. Our goals for next year include Literacy, Math, Science Inquiry, Aboriginal Education, Education for Sustainable Development, Mental Health and French language.
3. The school musical revue, Ooh! Canada was outstanding and all the grade 5 and 6 students had fun. One hundred percent participation by all the kids!
4. Our Exercise A Thon once again was very successful and all the students, staff and parent volunteers had fun and were extremely active. A variety of stations included Skipping, Zumba, Boxercise, Cardio, Weight Training, Movement and Cooperative Games. Classroom parents provided watermelon for the nutritional break. All funds raised from our Exercise A Thon and our Think A Thon go towards all school field trips, MTYP and guest performers.
5. Grade 6 Farewell scheduled for Thursday, June 25th. Doors will open at 1pm and a power point will be running until 1:30pm. We will then start the formal part of the assembly. The students once again will be piped into the gym and it is our intention to have the program completed by 2:30pm in time for the grade 5 parents to host refreshments. Our grade 5 students will also have the honour of singing our school song to the grade 6 students at their farewell.
6. Tuesday, June 30th is the last day of school, we will be having a farewell assembly in our gym at 11:00am with all the staff and students. This will be a time for us to say our last farewells to students and staff for the 2014-2015 school year. At 11:30am, teachers will escort their class outside for their final time when the “traditional hand bell” rings.
7. Last but not least, administration and staff would like to thank all the PAG Representatives/Standing Committees for volunteering endless hours for our school and children. Their efforts are appreciated.

It takes a community to educate a child