

SOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2020

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

December 10, 2020

The South Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Election of Committee Chair

The Committee was informed that at a Board meeting, Trustee Jamie Dumont was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Chris Broughton was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from École River Heights volunteered to Chair the meeting.

2. WSD 2021/2022 Budget Consultation

The Committee received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2021/2022 school year.

The Committee was informed that the Budget is developed based on the WSD Strategic Plan that aligns with the vision to be engaged, confident, inspired and successful learners. The Committee was informed that the development of the budget includes students, learning outcomes, employing qualified caring and competent staff, practicing sustainable development, and building relationships.

The Committee was informed that the Board is committed to obtaining feedback from school communities, parent councils, residents and staff groups for the 2021/2022 budget.

The Committee was informed that this year, the members of the Board are interested in receiving feedback on school resources that may be required to fulfil educational mandate and the most important issue for schools, and whether the parent council favour an increase in property taxes if required to support programming.

The Committee discussed and agreed that the most important issue for their schools was the need for better access to wifi and reliable technology to support remote learning. The Committee commented that the pandemic has resulted in economic hardship for many families and the need for assistance programs such as breakfast programs may be more of a necessity.

The Committee indicated that their Parent Council was not in favour of any increases to property tax and that the rate of increase needs to be capped at a lower more reasonable amount.

The Committee was informed that the provincial funding announcement will be made in late January/ February and school boards are required to submit their budget to the province by March 15, 2021.

Trustee Dumont recommended that parent representative share the budget information with their respective parent councils and provide feedback to the Board on the three questions outlined in the budget brochure. The Committee was informed that all feedback will be considered by the Board throughout the Budget process.

3. **Renaming of Cecil Rhodes School**

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees approved a motion on October 5, 2020, that the administration begin a consultation process to engage students, parents/guardians and members of the community on the interest of renaming of Cecil Rhodes School and that the results of the consultation be provided to the Board of Trustees no later than March 15th, 2021.

The Committee was informed that the request to review the name of Cecil Rhodes School was in response to a petition with 1,700 signatures requesting that the Board of Trustees consider a name change. The Committee was informed that while the history of Cecil Rhodes includes an acknowledgement of business contributions and achievements, he is also known for his involvement and support in politics which upheld segregationist policies against non-white citizens of South Africa.

The Committee was informed that the administration is in the process of obtaining feedback from a variety of stakeholders. The consultation process will include current students attending Cecil Rhodes School as well as former students. The students will receive the history of Cecil Rhodes and have an opportunity to discuss the name of the school and share different perspectives.

The administration will also be consulting with staff, parents, and the community to obtain feedback. The WSD website will provide an opportunity for people to complete a survey to provide feedback.

The Committee was also informed that the administration will establish a Cecil Rhodes School - Renaming Committee consisting of the Superintendent of Education Services, two parents, two students, the principal and the Director of Buildings, based on the results of the school and community feedback. The Committee was encouraged to discuss this matter with their respective parent councils and submit feedback to the Board for consideration.

4. **School Resource Officers**

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees received presentations, petitions and correspondence from individuals requesting the removal of SRO's in schools mainly due to their role, and interactions with students. As a result, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the School Resource Officer Program (SRO) be referred to the Finance/Personnel Committee for discussion. On November 16, 2020, the Board of Trustees gave direction to the administration to develop a comprehensive consultation process to evaluate the SRO program.

The Committee was informed that the administration is in the process of developing a survey to obtain feedback from students, staff and parents/guardians. A third party will be retained to consult with WSD community members and organizations to collect and compile feedback on the SRO Program.

Overall, the Committee agreed that the School Resource Officer program is an essential service provided in schools.

Trustee Edel informed the Committee that a thorough evaluation of the program is underway to ensure input from all stakeholders. It is anticipated that the evaluation will be completed in February/March, 2021.

The Committee was encouraged to share this information with their parent councils. Feedback on the SRO program can be submitted directly to the Board and Community Liaison Officer at brlapointe@wsd1.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Dumont
Trustee Representative

In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Carpathia School
Earl Grey School
Ecole LaVerendrye
Ecole River Heights
Harrow School
J.B. Mitchell School
Kelvin High School
Queenston School
Riverview School
Robert H. Smith School
Rockwood School

Administration

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent
Julie Millar, Director
Susan Christiuk, Principal Carpathia
Ryan Hughes, Principal Churchill High School
Jamie Hutchison, Principal Grant Park High School
Evelyn Siddall, Principal Harrow School
Paulette Huggins, Principal J.B. Mitchell School
Ruth Schappert, Principal LaVerendrye School
Michelle Namaka, Principal Queenston School
Andrea Powell, Principal Robert H. Smith School
Kathy Ateah, Principal Rockwood School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Brock Corydon School
Churchill High School
College Churchill
Gladstone School
Grant Park High School
Grosvenor School
Lord Roberts School
Montrose School
Ecole Sir William Osler

Trustees

Jamie Dumont
Chris Broughton
Jennifer Chen