

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – February 20, 2019

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. 2019/2020 DRAFT BUDGET PRESENTATION

The Committee was provided with an overview of the 2019/2020 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that on January 9, 2019, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The increase for all of Manitoba for 2019/2020 is .5% or \$6.6 million dollars. Committee members were informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division which is based on enrollment, equals a decrease of 0.1% or \$202,963 over last year's funding.

Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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 included for in the 2019/2020 budget.

Committee members were informed that the Minister of Education encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2.0%. Committee members were informed that special requirement is based on the school year and property taxes are based on a calendar year. The Committee was informed that a 3.0% special requirement equals a 2.9% property tax increase or \$41 on average assessed home at \$214,200. Committee members were informed that the provincial funding for education is based on several factors including student enrolment, capital costs, equalization payments and the phase out of the Tax Incentive Grant.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees is requesting feedback on the following budget additions: autism clinical psychologist, day program supports for students with exceptional needs, additional Early Childhood Inclusive Needs Support, Sound Field Systems, enhanced Wi-Fi, pilot video conference course, expanding Full Day Kindergarten programs, data analytics software, technology, school grounds maintenance and Lunch Program Coordinator.

Committee members were also informed that the Division provides many programs/services for students that are not provincially funded as follows: Intercultural Support Workers, Library Technical Assistants, Computer Technicians, adult crossing guards, School Resource Officers, off campus programs, Home Learning Assistants for Early School Years, Library and Support Services, therapy services, summer school, nutrition programs, nursery, arts performances, special events and programs, milk subsidy, and Attendance Officers. These programs/services cost \$11,415,173 and are areas the Board of Trustees may have to find cost savings if required.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – February 20, 2019

- 2 -

Committee members discussed programs which have most impacted their schools. Committee members supported maintaining Intercultural Support Workers, Arts Performances, special events and programs and therapy services.

Committee members agreed that should reductions be required to balance the budget, the expansion of Full Day Kindergarten sites should be an area the Board may want to reconsider. Committee members also recommended that enhancements to school WiFi is not necessary as there is sufficient WiFi access currently in schools.

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

Committee members were 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 25, 2019 at Administration Building N^o. 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. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 4, 2019. All feedback will be considered by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at the meeting to be held March 11, 2019.

3. LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUESTIONING

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to add the topic of LGBTQ to the agenda for discussion. Committee members were provided with a copy of the Division's Fact Sheet on Human Rights/Anti-Homophobia Initiatives as well as the Division's Safe and Caring Policy for information. Committee members discussed the role and responsibility of staff and students regarding privacy and respect.

Committee members suggested this dialogue would be beneficial to introduce to younger children so that they are aware that the Winnipeg School Division is committed to providing high quality education in a safe, equitable and inclusive school environment and that students be educated that everyone deserves dignity, respect and equity including trans and gender diverse students and staff.

4. DRESS CODE

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to add the topic of the Dress Code in the Winnipeg School Division to the agenda for discussion.

Committee members were informed that the Winnipeg School Division's Code of Conduct states students should dress appropriately for classes and school activities and that schools often have school specific dress codes or requirements.

The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a Division-Wide Dress Code policy to ensure a respectful learning environment while promoting equality and self-expression.

5. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

Argyle Alternative High School

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

- First High School Valentine's Dance

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate

Committee members were informed of the following events at DMCI:

- Valentine's Day Photo Booth
- Glow in the Dark wrist band Dance
- Evening Dance being held in April
- Talent Show
- Dog Day

Elmwood High School

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

- Bubble Tea Fundraiser
- Gym Riots

Gordon Bell High School

Committee members were informed of the following events at Gordon Bell High School:

- Halloween Dance
- Spirit Week
- Outdoor summer event being planned
- Multicultural Mosaic day being held in April

Sisler High School

Committee members were informed of the following events at Sisler High School:

- Sustainability program selling reusable water bottles
- E-Sweeps, dropping off dead electronics to recycle
- Fundraiser - Selling roses on Valentine's Day
- Candy grams
- Match survey to match up students in school.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – February 20, 2019

- 4 -

6. FOR INFORMATION

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 17, 2018, the Board of Trustees received the Student Advisory Committee Summary of Discussions as information. The Summary of Discussions have been distributed to Committee members the week of December 17th.

Once reviewed by the Board, Student Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

<https://www.winnipeg.ca/students/studentinformation/Pages/StudentAdvisoryCommittee.aspx>

IN ATTENDANCE:

Student Representatives:

Argyle Alternative High School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
Elmwood High School
Gordon Bell High School
Sisler High School

Trustees:

Yijie (Jennifer) Chen
Betty Edel

Administration:

Rob Riel, Acting Superintendent Education Services
Wayne Wyke – Acting Director, Newcomer Services
Sarah Babson, Staff Advisor, Argyle Alternative High School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Grant Park High School
Kelvin High School
R. B Russell Vocational High School
St. John's High School
Tec Voc High School