

**CENTRAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2023**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board

November 27, 2023

The Central District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee stated that the students, staff, and communities of Winnipeg School Division are committed to truth and reconciliation through building relationships with Mother Earth, the original peoples of this land and the stories that bring us together. We acknowledge the place in which we gather is on Treaty 1 territory, the homeland of the Red River Métis and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak and Dakota Oyate peoples.

2. Election of Committee Chair

The Committee was informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees held on September 11, 2023, Trustee Rebecca Chambers was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Perla Javate was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from Elmwood High School volunteered to Chair the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda of November 27, 2023, as distributed.

4. WSD 2024/2025 Budget Consultation

The Committee was informed that on March 6, 2023, the Board of Trustees approved a budget for the 2023/2024 school year in the amount of \$454,832,200. The Committee was also informed that this budget was developed with the anticipation of a new education funding model by the Province of Manitoba. However, the Province later communicated that the implementation of the new funding model, initially expected for the 2023/2024 school year, would be delayed due to the need for further consultation. The Committee was informed that the funding model for the upcoming 2024/2025 Budget would adhere to the same formula as this current budget.

The Committee was informed that in preparation for the budget announcement, the Board is actively seeking input from parents/guardians on budget priorities by December 15, 2023, for consideration at the next meeting. The Board has requested feedback on priorities for schools and the community in the upcoming budget process, suggestions for program expansions in respective communities, and how budget resources could be more effectively distributed to reach those who need them the most.

The Committee was informed that the government is expected to announce funding details at the end of January. The Committee requested the distribution of the 2023/2024 Draft Budget to parent councils for both review and comparative evaluation. The Committee was informed that responses or questions posed during parent council meetings can be sent to Trustees or to the Board and Community Liaison Officer.

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The Committee discussed the allocation of budget resources for cultural initiatives, expressing concerns about the lack of cultural activities in schools and advocated for a more substantial budget allocation. The Committee was informed that there are budgets for cultural activities encouraged to provide feedback for consideration regarding opportunities to enhance and expand cultural programs within schools.

The Committee was informed about the absence of a funding formula for the current year and ongoing efforts were discussed regarding the potential raise of the special levy. The Committee discussed the government's restrictions on the special levy and acknowledged that, if granted the ability, the special levy could be used to expand programs and services. The Committee was informed that 60% of the funding comes from the province and 40% comes from local taxation, and that all Divisions have been capped at 2%, which means there are different amounts of revenue per Division. The Committee was informed about the funding disparity in education between wealthy and less affluent areas, emphasizing that school divisions with more commercial property fare better financially, while others struggle due to fewer resources from modest homes. The Committee was informed that the Province is developing a new funding formula where wealthier individuals pay more taxes to address this inequality. The Committee was also informed that some neighbourhoods can benefit from the TIF, a civic funding program that offers significant property tax discounts for over two decades to properties that make substantial improvements, aiming to enhance and uplift the community.

5. Lunch Program - Update

At a previous meeting, The Committee was informed that feedback from sixteen (16) schools indicated overall support for a flexible policy or guideline. Parent councils suggested that WSD provide assistance in staffing, training, finances, and human resources. The Committee was informed about insurance requirements for parent councils acting as employers, and it was confirmed that they would need to purchase their own coverage.

The Committee was also informed that administration is exploring the possibility of extending EA hours to support lunch programs, with plans to operate a pilot program for the lunch program at schools with the greatest need for support. The Board of Trustees agreed to defer Policy KMB – Parent Council Lunch Programs until after budget discussions have been completed.

The Committee emphasized the importance of considering the impact on schools with limited EAs and the need for a systemic solution that caters to the diverse needs of the 79 schools in WSD.

The Committee was informed that Draft Policy KMB – Parent Council Lunch Program remained the same due to a pause in the process and that administration is exploring alternatives based on the feedback received from schools.

The Committee discussed the ongoing pressures faced by EAs, including the allocation of EAs during lunchtime and certain classroom needing coverage for students requiring support. The Committee was informed that there is potential alleviation through extending EA hours and that the plan is to convert all EAs from Levels A and B to Level C, allowing them to work and support students with diverse needs during both classroom and lunchtime, including introducing more flexibility in scheduling for activities like walking school buses and crossing guards. The Committee also discussed maximizing the use of existing resources, the possibility of a nutrition program, and the financial implications of a division-wide lunch program.

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The Committee shared their experiences, including the struggle to collect lunch program fees from parents. The Committee was informed that the lunch program pilot program will address concerns and challenges faced by parent councils and schools. The Committee requested a description of the pilot program to present to the parent council and an update on the process of the pilot program.

The Committee was informed that five (5) schools will be chosen for the pilot program based on their current needs and challenges, with the aim of gathering essential information for a potential division-wide implementation, while emphasizing the need for careful consideration of financial constraints.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Chambers  
Trustee Representative

Attendance:

**Voting Representatives**

Clifton School  
DMCI High School  
Elmwood High School  
Glenelm School  
Isaac Brock School  
Keewatin Prairie Community School  
Laura Secord School  
River Elm School  
École Sacré-Coeur School  
Tec Voc High School

**Regrets**

Ecole George V School  
Greenway School  
Kent Road School  
Lord Selkirk School  
Principal Sparling School  
Sargent Park School  
Weston School  
Wolseley School  
W.A.E.C

**Administration**

Matt Henderson, Superintendent/CEO  
Julie Smerchanski, Assistant Superintendent  
Melody Woloschuk, Principal, DMCI High School  
Ruth Schappert, Principal, Ecole George V School  
Cree Crowchild, Principal, Elmwood High School  
Christopher Torrance, Vice-Principal, Elmwood High School  
Kristine Carino, Vice-Principal, Elmwood High School  
Erin Enns, Principal (*Acting*), Keewatin Prairie Community School  
Jenny Bui, Vice-Principal (*Acting*), Keewatin Prairie Community School  
Marla Tran, Principal, River Elm School  
Joyce Wong, Vice-Principal, Sargent Park School  
Lindsey Munz, Vice-Principal, Tec Voc High School  
Michelle Lejano, Recording Secretary

**Trustees**

Rebecca Chambers  
Perla Javate  
Tamara Kuly