

December 18, 2023

French Immersion Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2023

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## **FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2023**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 30, 2023

The French Immersion Advisory Committee reports as follows:

### **1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples of Canada**

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 Jamie Dumont was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Ann Evangelista was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The Committee member from École Sacré-Coeur volunteered to chair the meeting. The Committee member from Sir William Osler volunteered to chair the next meeting.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda for November 30, 2023, was approved by the Committee 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 Province of Manitoba established a consultant team to guide the development of a new education funding model which was to be implemented for the 2023/2024 school year. The Province later announced that the new funding model requires more consultation and would not be ready for the 2023/2024 school year as anticipated. The Province has confirmed that the funding model will be the same formula for the 2024/2025 Budget. The Committee was also informed that property tax levies have been frozen at 2020 levels and it remains unknown if the levies will be increasing this year.

The Committee was informed that in preparation of the budget announcement, the Board is requesting feedback regarding the priorities for schools and the community that should be considered in the upcoming budget process? Which programs should be expanded in school communities? And how could resources within the budget be better distributed to ensure they are reaching those who need them most? The Committee was informed the Board is requesting feedback be provided by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for discussion at the next District Advisory meeting. The Committee was informed that the Division is only beginning budget discussions and that there will be additional meetings for providing feedback regarding the budget. The Committee was also informed that budget feedback may be compiled by the Parent Council, or submitted individually by parents/guardians.

The Committee was informed that currently the Board is in an exploratory phase and that feedback from the community is important for determining where funding will have the maximum impact. The Board of Trustees along with administration are currently developing a utopian wish list for programs and services, which will be paired down once the budget is released and it is evident what is feasible and what will provide the greatest return to schools and the community.

#### **5. Lunch Program – Update**

The Committee was informed that at a previous meeting, the Board of Trustees approved a motion to draft a new Policy KMB – Parent Council Lunch Programs for distribution to all the District Advisory Committees for review and feedback. The feedback from sixteen schools demonstrated that overall, parent councils supported the development of a flexible policy or guideline. Parent Councils suggested that WSD provide support to the parent council with staffing, training, financials and human resources. Parent Councils also recommended that WSD provide Educational Assistants to assist with staffing needs.

The Committee was informed that the administration was seeking confirmation on the insurance requirements for parent councils functioning as an employer and whether the Division's Insurance Policy would cover any liability concerns. The Committee was informed that the administration recently received clarification on the insurance coverage required for parent councils operating as an employer and MSBA has confirmed that parent councils would be required to purchase their own insurance coverage.

The Committee was informed that at a meeting held November 6, 2023, the Board of Trustees were informed that administration is in the process of examining the potential for extending the hours for Educational Assistants to provide support for the lunch programs. The Committee was informed that WSD will operate a pilot program for the lunch program at five schools with the greatest need for support. The Committee was also informed that the operation of a division-wide lunch program would be a multi-million-dollar cost. The feasibility of offering the program is still under review and has not yet been approved by the Board.

The Committee was encouraged to share feedback and concerns with the Board via email.

#### **6. Manitoba's Recruitment and Retention Strategy for French Language Teachers**

The Committee was informed that in the fall of 2021, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning in collaboration with a variety of Departmental Groups, Professional Organizations, School Divisions, Universities, Groups, Networks, Community Organizations, National Organizations and Members of Academia, developed a strategy for recruiting and retaining French Language teachers in Manitoba.

The Committee was informed that the essential components outlined in the strategy include, Training and Professional Learning, Recruitment, Retention, Data Collection and Analysis, and Loyalty Development.

The Committee was informed that to ensure a supply of teachers who will remain teaching in Manitoba, it is key to ensure a strong supply of teacher candidates and sufficient training capacity in Manitoba universities, including increased access to professional learning for current certified teachers.

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The Committee was informed that to build a robust supply of teacher candidates, the promotion of French language teaching careers needs to be strong and recruitment practices need to be concerted and updated to welcome and expand the potential pool of candidates through equitable hiring practices.

The Committee was informed that to ensure that teachers remain in the profession teaching French, retention strategies and appropriate supports need to be in place throughout their entire career cycle: beginning, mid and near exit.

The Committee was informed that to effectively and efficiently target all initiatives, a clear data collection and analysis plan needs to be in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of actions and to ensure system accountability and responsiveness to emerging needs.

The Committee was informed that WSD is partnering with universities and the community to recruit French teachers, as well as recruiting internationally.

Respectfully Submitted,

TAMARA KULY  
Trustee Representative

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**In Attendance:**

**Voting Representatives:**

École Luxton  
École River Heights  
École Robert H. Smith  
École Sacre-Coeur  
École Sir William Osler  
École Sisler High School  
École Stanley Knowles

**Administration:**

Shelley Warkentin, Assistant Superintendent  
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School  
Jessica Mayor-Rodrigues, Principal, École Lansdowne  
Ashley Morrison, Vice-Principal, École Lansdowne  
Warren Nickerson, Principal, École Luxton  
Lauranne Parnell, Vice-Principal, École River Heights  
Dominique Ostermann, Principal, École Sir William Osler

**Regrets:**

College Churchill High School  
École Garden Grove  
École George V  
École J.B. Mitchell  
École Lansdowne  
École Laura Secord  
École LaVénrendrye  
École Secondaire Kelvin  
École Victoria Albert  
École Waterford Springs

**Trustees:**

Tamara Kuly  
Jamie Dumont (Regrets)  
Ann Evangelista (Regrets)