

INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2023

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 28, 2023

The Inner City 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 September 11, 2023, Trustee Dante Aviso was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Tamara Kuly was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representatives from William Whyte School, Mulvey School and Strathcona School volunteered to co-chair the meetings of the Inner City District Advisory Committee. The parent representative from William Whyte chaired the first meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee requested that Jordan's Principle be added to the agenda for discussion. The Committee approved the revised agenda for November 28, 2023.

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 informed the mill rate for WSD is much lower compared to other divisions, which is a benefit under the current funding model. The Committee was also informed that property tax levies have been frozen at 2020 levels and it remains unknown if the special levy 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 15th, 2023, for discussion at the

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next District Advisory meeting. The Committee was informed 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 Superintendent reminded the Committee that the budget for WSD is approximately half a billion dollars and stressed the importance of providing feedback to the Board for consideration. The Board of Trustees along with administration are currently developing a utopian wish list for programs and services, which will be paired down once budget numbers are released and it is evident what is feasible and what will provide the greatest return to schools and the community.

The Committee was also informed that the majority of the budget is allocated towards staffing and buildings/maintenance, which increases the importance of being strategic with the remaining funds.

5. Lunch Program – Update

At a previous meeting, the Committee was informed that 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 (EA's) 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 employee 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 members of the Board were 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.

Committee members shared that in some schools EA's work on a lunch rotation to allow for lunch time supervision. The Committee also shared that in lunch programs of approximately 100 students, on average 30-50 students are provided emergency lunches.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees agreed to defer Policy KMB – Parent Council Lunch Programs until after budget discussions have been completed.

6. Jordan's Principle

At the request of the Committee, Jordan's Principle was added to the agenda for discussion.

The Committee was informed that Jordan's Principle is a program offered in partnership with the Southern Chiefs Organization at no cost to WSD to provide assistance for Indigenous students in schools. Jordan's Principle was developed to ensure that First Nations children can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them and to develop long-term approaches to help better address the unique needs of First Nations children.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE AVISO
Trustee Representative

In Attendance**Voting Representatives:**

David Livingstone School
General Wolfe School
Gordon Bell High School
Machray School
Mulvey School
Niji Mahkwa School
R.B. Russell High School
Sister MacNamara School
Strathcona School
William Whyte School

Regrets:

Argyle Alternative High School
Children of the Earth High School
Dufferin School
Fort Rouge School
Hugh John Macdonald School
John M. King School
King Edward School
Norquay School
Pinkham School
Victoria-Albert School
Wellington School

Administration:

Matthew Henderson, Superintendent
Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent
Mohammad Rezai, Assistant Superintendent
Christopher Clarke, Principal, David Livingstone School
Susan Darazsi, Principal, General Wolfe School
Vinh Huynh, Principal, Gordon Bell High School
Claudia Martinez, Vice-Principal, King Edward School
Daniel Braga, Principal, Machray School
Peter Correia, Principal, Mulvey School
Ruben Boulette, Principal, Niji Mahkwa School
Leigh Ann Dysart, Vice-Principal, Niji Mahkwa School
Mercy Sackey, Principal, Pinkham School
Paul Krowiak, Principal, R.B. Russell High School
Sonia Medagila Dos Santos, Vice-Principal, Sister MacNamara School
Helen Savater-Fixe, Vice-Principal, Strathcona School
Daniel Keith, Principal, William Whyte School
Lindsey Trudeau, Vice-Principal, William Whyte School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Support Worker, William Whyte School
Community Support Worker, General Wolfe
Community Support Worker, Strathcona
Community Support Worker, Norquay School
Community Support Worker, R.B. Russell
Community Support Worker, Machray

Trustee:

Dante Aviso
Tamara Kuly