

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, November 21, 2023

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee members 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

Committee members were informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees held on September 11, 2023, Trustee Ann Evangelista was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Betty Edel was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from St. John's High School volunteered to Chair the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee members recommended that School Resource Officers (SRO) Program and additional North District Advisory Committee meeting dates be added to the agenda for discussion. Committee members approved the revised agenda for November 21, 2023.

4. WSD 2024/2025 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were informed that the Province of Manitoba, after establishing a consultant team for a new education funding model which was to be implemented for the 2023/2024 school year, announced a delay due to the need for additional consultation. The Province has confirmed that the current funding model formula will be continued for the 2024/2025 Budget.

Committee members were informed that in preparation of the budget announcement, the Board is requesting feedback regarding the following:

- What are the priorities for schools and the community that should be considered in the upcoming budget process?
- Which programs should be expanded in your community?
- How could resources within the budget be better distributed to ensure they are reaching those who need them most?

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Committee members were informed that the Board is actively seeking input from parents/guardians on budget priorities by December 15, 2023, for consideration at the next meeting. Committee members were informed that the administration will incorporate community feedback to refine the draft budget, considering past years, changes, and directives from the Board. Committee members were informed to expect more detailed information on numbers, programs, and budget specifics for the February consultation.

5. LUNCH PROGRAM – UPDATE

At a meeting held November 6, 2023, the Board of Trustees agreed to run a pilot program for the operation of a lunch program at schools with the greatest need for support. The administration is in the process of examining the potential for extending the hours for Educational Assistants to provide support for the lunch programs. The Board of Trustees agreed to defer Policy KMB – Parent Council Lunch Programs until after budget discussions have been completed.

In response to an enquiry regarding the development of the draft lunch program policy, the Committee was informed that previous Boards had explored possibilities for collaboration with parents and the exploration of alternative models over time. However, based on the discussions and feedback from parents, the Board agreed to initiate the process of a pilot program. Committee members were informed that the ongoing discussions included gathering information for the pilot program. Committee members suggested broad data collection to understand the spectrum of existing lunch programs, including what parents are paying and the financial dynamics.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the pilot program would include less than 10 schools and that the selection will be based on the current needs and challenges of schools. Committee members agreed to continue discussion on the process of the pilot program at the next meeting.

Committee members raised concerns about schools receiving varying levels of support and requested clarification on insurance coverage. Committee members were informed that Parent Councils are covered by HUB International and that the Board will follow-up with MSBA for more information regarding insurance coverage.

Committee members expressed concerns about the potential negative impact for staff who may rely on income from lunch programs. Committee members requested clarification on having fundraisers to support the lunch program. The Committee indicated that hot lunches could generate a small profit to reinvest in the lunch program and alleviate costs for parents. Committee members discussed different operational lunch program dynamics across all schools and that Parent Councils typically manage lunch programs and conduct separate fundraising activities. Committee members were informed that the Board will seek clarification if fundraising within the lunch program is acceptable for discussion at the next meeting.

6. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO) PROGRAM

Committee members agreed to add the School Resource Officers (SRO) program to the agenda for discussion. Committee members expressed concern about its absence from the agenda and requested an update on the status of the incident reports that were submitted, as well as the next steps for schools. Committee members were informed that the incident reports have been shared with the Board, highlighting the prevalence of incidents involving weapons and individuals under the influence, and can be accessed in public documentation.

A Committee member proposed a pilot project for SROs and questioned the necessity for additional studies and surveys, suggesting that action is needed to address increased violence. A parent representative felt that SROs in schools did not have any impact on improving safety. Committee members were informed that the Board plans to engage with communities rather than conduct more studies as survey results are not statistically significant. A parent representative from Faraday School shared her perspective as a parent and former student about the effectiveness of SRO's presence in schools and recommended reallocating resources to initiatives such as nutrition programs. Committee members were informed that the upcoming budget and strategic planning discussions is provide an opportunity for community input on school safety priorities.

7. ADDITIONAL NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

The Committee added additional North District Advisory Committee meeting dates to the agenda for discussion. Committee members discussed the frequency of meetings in the past few years, noting that there are only two (2) to three (3) meetings held a year. Committee members expressed the need for more meetings to keep parents informed about what is happening in WSD and suggested an additional meeting at the end of the school year.

Committee members were informed that although it is stated in the Guidelines for Board Advisory that Advisory Committees may be held up to four (4) times during the school year, last year the North District Advisory Committee only had three (3) meetings due to Trustee elections. Committee members agreed to add this matter to the next agenda for discussion. Committee members agreed to discuss this with their respective Parent Council.

8. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

Parent representatives from the following schools provided a written report on school activities (attached):

- Shaughnessy Park School
- Isaac Newton School
- Ralph Brown School

9. GUIDELINES FOR BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Committee members were informed that the attached Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees, which align with the Public Schools Act, the Board of Trustees Procedural By-Law 1263, and relevant legislation and policies are provided for review.

10. COVID - UPDATE

Committee members were informed that the Province of Manitoba is actively encouraging Manitobans to receive the updated COVID-19 vaccines as a crucial measure to safeguard themselves, their families, and communities during the impending respiratory virus season.

Committee members were informed that Public Health has recommended various precautions, including staying home when sick, practicing regular handwashing and sanitizing, covering coughs and sneezes, and maintaining the regular cleaning and disinfection of shared surfaces and objects.

Committee members were informed about the attached news release from the Province dated October 23, 2023, along with details about improved ventilation systems in schools.

11. SCHOOL GRANTS/PROPOSALS

Committee members were informed that the Board and Community Liaison Office will be expanding to provide support to schools and parent councils by assisting with proposal writing for grants that are designated to support education programs and schools.

Committee members were informed to reach out to Ms. Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer, Access and Privacy Coordinator, at 204-789-0469 or via email at brlapointe@wsd1.org to request assistance or support.

12. NEW STRUCTURE/CLUSTERS

Committee members were informed that, as of October 30, 2023, a new administrative structure has been put into effect for the 2023/2024 school year. Committee members were provided with a copy of the new structure, which consists of the Superintendent/CEO, six (6) Assistant Superintendents, and a Divisional Kookum. Committee members were also informed that the attached document includes details on the specific school assignments for each Assistant Superintendent, offering a comprehensive overview of the revised administrative framework.

Committee members expressed a positive outlook for the new structure and acknowledged its potential benefits and expressing excitement about its implementation. Committee members were informed that the restructuring aims to provide Assistant Superintendents with a more manageable number of schools, fostering collaboration between Principals and Assistant Superintendents to enhance consistency and ease family navigation within the educational system.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Divisional Kookum, Marsha Missyabit, will be supporting all Assistant Superintendents by bringing Indigenous perspectives to schools and supporting Truth and Reconciliation initiatives. Committee members were informed that the Divisional Kookum can be reached by contacting the main switchboard at WSD.

13. LEAD IN DRINKING WATER TESTING AND MITIGATION RESULTS

Committee members were informed that on June 7, 2023, the Province of Manitoba released the Lead in Drinking Water testing and mitigation data for public schools, and the full report can be accessed using the provided link (<https://gov.mb.ca/sd/water/drinking-water/lead/>).

Committee members were informed that the initiative, launched in 2019 due to updated national lead in water guidelines, aimed to reduce the permissible limit to 0.005 mg/l. Within two years, Manitoba Health advised school divisions to conduct testing, leading WSD to test over 5,000 water fixtures.

Committee members were informed that the cost of testing to the end of March 2023 was \$249,881.50, with the Province contributing \$87,414 to offset these expenses. Remediation efforts, including fixture replacements, alterations to water lines and fittings, and labeling fixtures as "not for consumption," were undertaken for fixtures surpassing the guidelines. Committee members were informed that most remediation work is finished, with only minor tasks remaining in a few high schools. Additionally, Committee members were informed that in compliance with provincial requirements, all school divisions were mandated to post findings at each school and take corrective actions. Committee members were also informed that schools are encouraged to share their results with their communities to ensure transparency and safety in providing drinking water.

14. FOR INFORMATION

Committee members were encouraged to attend bi-weekly regular board meetings to stay informed about ongoing events and updates within WSD. In response to an enquiry regarding live streaming board meetings, Committee members were informed that the Board is experiencing technical issues and are testing equipment such as the Meeting Owl. In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that in-camera discussions involve personnel matters, confidential issues and informal discussions.

15. NEXT MEETING DATE

Committee members were informed the next North District Advisory Committee meeting will be held next year (T.B.D.) to continue discussions on the WSD 2024/2025 Budget Consultation.

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Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Champlain School
École Lansdowne School
Faraday School
Garden Grove School
Isaac Newton School
Lord Nelson School
Prairie Rose School
Ralph Brown School
Robertson School
St. John's High School
Tyndall Park School
Waterford Springs School

Regrets

Andrew Mynarski School
École Stanley Knowles School
Inkster School
Luxton School
Meadows West School
Shaughnessy Park School
Sisler High School

Administration

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Assistant Superintendent
Christina Da Mata, Principal, Andrew Mynarski V.C. School
Nopharat Kousonsavath, Vice-Principal, Andrew Mynarski V.C. School
Paulo Teixeira, Principal, Champlain School
Jessica Mayor-Rodrigues, Principal, Ecole Lansdowne
Ashley Morrison, Vice-Principal, Ecole Lansdowne
Andrea Hinthier-Janus, Vice-Principal, Ecole Stanley Knowles
Nichola Batzel, Principal, Isaac Newton School
Ti-Oluwani Friesen, Community Support Worker
Trevor MacVicar, Principal, Ralph Brown School
Tanis Westdal, Principal, Shaughnessy Park School
Crystal Dalke, Covering Support Worker, Shaughnessy Park School
Pat Graham, Principal, Sisler High School
Luc Buller, Vice-Principal, Sisler High School
Douglas Taylor, Principal, St. John's High School
Gisele Mospanchuk, Principal, Tyndall Park School
Ryan Erichsen, Vice-Principal, Tyndall Park School
Michelle Lejano, Recording Secretary

Trustees

Ann Evangelista
Tamara Kuly

SHAUGHNESSY PARK SCHOOL

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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
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PHONE 204.586.8376
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PRINCIPAL T.WESTDAL
VICE PRINCIPAL D.PARAN

Parent Advisory School Report (September - November 2023)

1. Staff PD

- September 7
 - All staff at Shaughnessy in attendance
- October 3
 - All staff at Shaughnessy in attendance
 - In-School – P.D. Day
 - Trauma-informed practice – p.d. led by division Healthy Minds Specialists
- October 20
 - M.T.S. – P.D. Day
 - Staff chose a pertinent area of interest and attended in-person or virtual session for the day

2. School Presentations

Terry Fox Assembly

- September 21
 - Terry Fox Assembly
 - Special presentation from the Terry Fox Foundation

Orange Shirt Day

- September 28
 - School-Wide Tile Project
 - Project of the Heart – tiles to be displayed on our path of reconciliation
 - Walking the Path of Reconciliation
 - Community walk involving all students K – 8

Terry Fox Fundraising Celebration

- September 28
 - Students raised over \$900.00 for the Terry fox Foundation
 - Staff followed through on incentives including shaving and dyeing hair

Indigenous Academic Student Success Committee Assembly

- Introducing the Pimachiowin Aki lunar calendar
 - Each month there will be an assembly with that month's teaching

Indigenous Veteran's Day

- November 8
 - School-wide moment of silence
 - Reading by indigenous student

Remembrance Day

- November 10
 - School-Wide attendance

3. School Community-building

Sources of Strength Halloween Week

- October 30th – November 3
 - School-Wide
 - Marvelous mentor Monday, Halloween, Wellness Wednesday, Thank-a-mentor Thursday, Fun Friday

Student Ambassadors

- Ongoing
 - Welcome to school tours
 - School buddies
 - Daily morning announcements

4. Parent Room

Our community support worker is away from the building until January, 2024. In the meantime, we continue with food security initiatives such as nutrition bingo and food hampers for families in need. Sincere thanks to Crystal Dalke for stepping in to the role.

5. Community Connections/Support

Elections Canada Voting Station – October 3

Vision testing – November 6

Vaccination clinic – October 12

Dental Screening – October 13

Parent-Council Meeting

- October 19
- November 22

Food Security

- Food hampers
- Nutrition Bingo
- Weekly ham delivery
- Weekly potato and bread pick-up from R.B. Russell
- Breakfast Program
- Lunch Program

Parent-teacher Conferences

- November 16 and 17

6. Athletics

- September 28th
 - Terry Fox Walk
 - Participation in class cohorts
- Morning gym
 - Open Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:15 for students
- Volleyball
 - Grade 7/8 students
 - Exhibition game for the grade 7/8 developmental boys
- Todd MacCulloch Hoop School
 - Practice every Tuesday after school
- Inner City Soccer League
 - Practice every Monday at lunch
- Cross country Team
 - First team in a number of years!

7. Numeracy

- Continued work on thinking classrooms along with further development of school-wide numeracy common language.
- Use of tools and manipulatives room.
- Continued development of Shaughnessy Mental Math document.

8. Literacy

- Continued learning conversations and P.D. to increase knowledge and confidence in assessment practices and tools.

- Expanded understanding comprehension strategies.
- Guided reading instruction and collaboration with the school reading clinician.

9. **Community Involvement**

- Ongoing celebration of student learning and growth.
- Enhancing school and community relationships through increased online social media presence, hosting school events, collaboration with our parent room.

10. **Indigenous Academic Student Success**

- Collaboration with the Indigenous Academic Student Success Consultant, focusing on grades three to six.
- Monthly Turtle Calendar Teaching Assemblies.
- Working with a school Elder.

11. **School Clubs**

Chill and Chat – lunch group for students in transitioning guardianship circumstances

Recycling club – every Wednesday picking up school-wide recycling

Band Practice club – New this school year! - twice a school cycle at lunch hour

Games Group – weekly games club

Chess Club – grade 7 and 8 students over lunch hour

Student Video Club – grade 7 and 8 students over lunch hour

Dance Team – New this school year! - every Wednesday at lunch hour

Rainbow Club – New this school year! – meetings called as needed

Hans Kai – New this school year! – meeting every Thursday at lunch

12. **Breakfast Program**

- Daily free program, serving approximately 100 students.
- Program runs from 8:15am daily.

13. **Fruit Bowl Program**

- Weekly.
- Fruit bowls provided to classrooms to ensure students have access to food

14. **Lunch Program**

- \$30.00 per month
- 40 -50 students in attendance daily



ISAAC NEWTON JUNIOR HIGH

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WEBSITE: <https://www.winnipegssd.ca/IsaacNewton>

School Report for November | 2023-2024

School is back in session! We are excited to welcome back our students, caregivers, and staff! We want to jump right into things! Listed below are some of the activities and events out school has so far:

- ❖ Special Olympics Bocce Tournament- In September, Isaac Newton School was represented by two of our Special Olympics athletes and two student helpers. They competed against other
- ❖ Volleyball- Our league started! We have over 75 students participating. They have been hard at work, practicing before and after school. Our students are blazing through games, and we are on our way to nationals!
- ❖ Halloween Dance- Our student council put together a spook-tacular Halloween dance. There was punch, music, and a variety of fun costumes. It was a blast!

Other events that we had were:

- Picture day
- Immunization shots
- Basket ball
- Open gym
- Free photography Class for Parents
- Parent/Guardians Teacher Conferences
- Pizza Day
- Tutoring
- Cross Country Run at Kildonan Park
- CVX Student Vote Program
- Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Orange Handprint Activity
- Thanksgiving Lunch
- Manitoba Chamber Orchestra
- Bi-Weekly Smudging with School Elder



RALPH BROWN SCHOOL



Principal: Mr. Trevor MacVicar
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North District Advisory Committee Report

November 21, 2023

School Culture

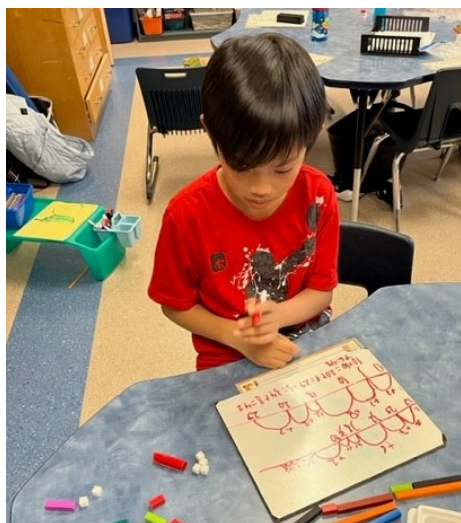
Ralph Brown School has a strong culture of community. In September 2021 our enrolment was 191 with 32 students in the English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program. Today, we have 353 students with 134 in the bilingual Program. We are growing rapidly and welcoming new families into both our English program and English-Ukrainian Bilingual program into the school community.

At Ralph Brown School, we honour and celebrate the diversity in our student population. Approximately 35% of the students are Indigenous, 34% Ukrainian newcomers, and the remaining 31% of various other cultures. Recently as our EUBP staff attended a conference in Dauphin, we heard from Elder Phyllis Racette the Kookum Scarf Teaching. The Kookum Scarf Teaching was shared to illustrate the connection and friendships between Indigenous and Ukrainian settlers when they first arrived in Canada. It is our hope that this friendship continues to be strong in our school and community while embracing people of all cultures into this wonderful school community.

This year, we have translated the Land Acknowledgement statement into Ukrainian so it can be shared in both languages. We also spent time explaining to our newcomer students why we read this statement at the beginning of each day as all classes engaged in learning about Residential Schools in September and Chanie Wenjack during our Secret Path Week in October.

Academics

Students continue to learn and develop their skills in all academic areas. We are fortunate to have several division support teachers working with our classroom teachers to provide professional development to strengthen their skills to be able to provide the best learning experiences for our students. These support teachers work alongside the classroom teachers 1-2 days a week and meet regularly to plan and reflect on their programming for students. We have a Math Mentor Coach working with various teachers and classrooms. We have another Literacy Support Teacher working with the primary teachers and students in rooms P2, P4 and P6. We are very thankful for these supports the division is able to offer to schools.



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English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program

Our program is growing rapidly and we currently have five classrooms to accommodate the enrolment. On November 19th, Manitoba Parents for Ukrainian Education (MPUE) welcomed families in the program to join the annual Santa Claus Parade and walk with their float which features a large mitten based on the Ukrainian Fairy Tale and book, *The Mitten*.

On November 24th, we will hold a special Assembly to honour Holodomor. This was a very dark time in Ukrainian history that can't be forgotten. It was a man-made famine that caused mass starvation and millions of Ukrainians died. Many of students and families will gather at City Hall on the 26th to honour day as well. Organizers asked our students in the Ukrainian choir to sing at the event.



Current Initiatives

Indigenous Gathering and Teaching Space: We are on a journey to developing a space that we can welcome elders, grandmothers and grandfathers into our school. In consultation with an elder and Indigenous Support Staff, so far, we have incorporated our school tipi, treaty timelines, treaty education kits, and a sharing circle. Our goal is to create a space that we can gather in community and deepen our understanding of Indigenous Peoples and work towards reconciliation.



STEAM: We are excited to have a STEAM lab developed last year through a grant from the Thomas Sill Foundation. During this time, students engage in learning a variety of skills related to science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Coding is just one of those rich learning experiences for students.

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Nature Based Learning:

We are into our second year of Nature Based Learning with our primary students. Nature Based Learning is learning in or from nature. This means that students typically are exploring and learning outdoors for about 30 – 40 minutes a day (beyond recess and lunch breaks). This learning tends to be inquiry based and student led. For example, projects about felled trees, composting, exploring soil layers and inventories of insects, plants, trees, etc. This inquiry model helped students learn curriculum outcomes in writing, mathematics, science and social studies. Referencing Manitoba Education's Global Competencies, students were able to demonstrate critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, citizenship and connection to self. As it pertains to the environment, students are becoming more environmentally conscious and understanding their impact on the natural world.



We received about \$100,000 to transform our school yard to support Nature Based Learning and outdoor play. This included the creation of berms, felled trees, stumps, additional trees, and a paved labyrinth maze with different digging areas (sand, pebbles, mulch) surrounded by shrubbery. As we move into the second year, we are hoping to redevelop our raised garden to include vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Parent Advisory Committee

Our PAC is very active in our school community with fundraising efforts and the operating of the lunch program. We have just completed our frozen pizza fundraising and were able to raise \$1500 to support school projects. We are pleased to share that all but one of our Executive positions are filled and we have a Ukrainian Parent Liaison member to assist our new families with any inquires they have or find ways to get involved in the school. We average about 15 – 20 families that join us each month.