

December 4, 2023

South District Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2023

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2023

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 23, 2023

The South District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee was informed 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 Kathy Heppner was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Lois Brothers was appointed as the Board's alternate representative.

The parent representative from Queenston School volunteered to chair the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee requested that the New Report Card be added to the agenda for discussion. The Committee approved the revised agenda for November 23, 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 has confirmed that the funding model will be the same formula for the 2024/2025 Budget. The Committee was informed that 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 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 15th, 2023, for discussion at the

December 4, 2023

South District Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2023

next District Advisory meeting. The Committee was also informed that 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 funding, 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.

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 Assistant'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 was 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 run a pilot program for the operation of a lunch program at 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 undertaking. The feasibility of offering the program is still under review and has not yet been approved by the Board.

6. New Report Cards

At the request of the Committee, the new process for Report Cards was added to the agenda for discussion.

The Superintendent informed the Committee that the new reporting process was implemented to encourage more relationship between teachers and families while also reducing the importance placed on grades. The new reporting process encourages teachers to spend time building relationships with families and to have open conversations about how students are reaching their goals.

December 4, 2023

South District Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2023

7. Inclusive Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Brothers informed the Committee that recently WSD has established an Inclusive Education Advisory Committee that is open to any parents/guardians of students with inclusive needs. The schedule of Inclusive meetings can be found on the WSD website and consists of both formal and informal meetings that provide parents/guardians the opportunity to network with other families, as well as learn more about programs and services offered through WSD.

Respectfully Submitted,

KATHY HEPPNER
Trustee Representative

In Attendance:**Voting Representatives:**

Brock Corydon School
College Churchill High School
Earl Grey School
Harrow School
Montrose School
Queenston School
Riverview School
Robert H. Smith School
Rockwood School

Regrets:

Carpathia School
Ecole Sir William Osler School
Gladstone School
Grant Park High School
Grosvenor School
J.B. Mitchell School
Kelvin High School
Laverendrye School
Lord Roberts School
River Heights School

Administration:

Matt Henderson, Superintendent
Lorelei Bunkowsky, Assistant Superintendent
Shelley Warkentin, Assistant Superintendent
Amanda Manness, Principal, Carpathia School
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School
Fernando Batista, Principal, Harrow School
Timothy Cox, Principal, Kelvin High School
Suzanne Mole, Principal, Montrose School
Dominic Zagari, Principal, River Heights School
Lauranne Parnell, Vice-Principal, River Heights School
Adam Dyck, Principal, Robert H. Smith School
Angela Perez, Principal, Rockwood School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Trustee:

Kathy Heppner
Lois Brothers
Jamie Dumont
Tamara Kuly