

**STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2022**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 23, 2022

The Student Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous People of Canada**

The Committee was informed that the meeting of the Student Advisory Committee is taking place on Treaty One Land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Metis.

**2. Election of Committee Chair**

The alternate student representative from College Churchill High School volunteered to Chair the Student Advisory Committee meeting.

**3. 2022/2023 Draft Budget**

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO was in attendance and provided an overview of the Draft Budget for the 2022/2023 school year.

The Committee was informed that last year the Board of Trustees approved the 2021/2022 Budget in the amount of \$421,039,400. The Committee was informed that the Division was forced to make reductions of \$4,457,395 for programs and services due to a drop in provincial funding of 1.6 percent or \$2,926,520. This also included the direction from the provincial government to freeze the at property tax levies at 2020 levels.

The Committee was informed the Board of Trustees is proposing a budget of \$437,118,200. The baseline funding has decreased by 1.3 percent, or \$2,325,538, while one-time funding of \$13,217,517 has been provided for next year and property tax levies for education will remain frozen at 2020 levels. The Committee was informed that one-time funding for 2022/2023 is intended to cover collective agreement settlements and additional costs related to pandemic staffing. The Committee was informed that the draft budget proposes no additions for 2022/2023 and no further reductions.

The Committee was informed that a large portion of the budget is determined by student enrolment numbers each year. The Province acknowledged that the lower student enrolment was related to the pandemic and implemented a hybrid enrolment calculation that was higher than then actual student enrolment numbers. The Committee was informed that even with the hybrid calculation funding for the division resulted in a 3.14 percent or approximately \$13,700,000 deficit. However, the one-time funding of approximately \$13,000,000 provided by the province, and the elimination of the Full-Day Kindergarten program, provided sufficient funding to offset deficit.

The Committee was informed that although the hybrid enrolment calculation and the one-time funding from the province has assisted in balancing the budget for this year, future budgets are still at risk without additional funding for education.

The Committee was informed that contract negotiations are ongoing and with the recent passing of Bill 28, all educators in Manitoba will be unified under one bargaining unit which should expedite future negotiations.

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The Committee was encouraged to share their input on the 2022/2023 Draft Budget by email, in writing, or by registering to appear virtually as a delegation to the Board of Trustees at the February 28, 2022, Special Meeting.

**4. Covid Update**

The Committee was informed that as of February 15, 2022, Manitoba schools transitioned to level caution (yellow) on the province's pandemic response system. Indoor masks, social distancing of two meters and cohorts are still in effect, however masks will not be required for students during physical education classes.

The Province has announced that all Covid-19 restrictions will be lifted by March 15, 2022, however, it is unclear if the lifting of restrictions will apply to schools as well. The Committee was informed that WSD will continue to monitor Covid-19 announcements and will provide as much notice as possible to school communities of any changes.

The Committee was informed that the Division provides Covid-19 expenditures to the province for reimbursement.

The Committee was informed that each school has developed distancing plans to provide as much distance as possible based on the unique needs and layout of the school. The use of lockers in schools is dependent on the ability of the school to provide adequate distance and regular cleaning of those areas. School activities such as pep-rallies are still restricted as assemblies in schools are capped at 75 people, however, as the weather improves there may be more options for outdoor assemblies and activities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Schatkowsky  
Trustee Representative

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In Attendance:

**Voting Representatives**

Argyle Alternative High School  
College Churchill High School  
Elmwood High School  
Gordon Bell High School  
Grant Park School  
Tec Voc High School

**Administration**

Robert Riel, Director  
Paul Kochan, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO  
Jonathan Fast, Vice-Principal (acting) Gordon Bell High School  
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

**Regrets**

Children of the Earth High School  
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
Kelvin High School  
R.B. Russell High School  
Sisler High School  
St. John's High School  
W.A.E.C.

**Trustees**

Linda Schatkowsky  
Chris Broughton (Regrets)