

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

CENTRAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, April 28, 2021

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee members approved the Agenda of April 28, 2021, as distributed.

2. BILL 64 – THE EDUCATION MODERNIZATION ACT

Committee members were informed that on March 16, 2021, the Province of Manitoba announced substantive changes to the education system in Manitoba.

Committee members were informed that the new governance model includes 15 new regions, plus Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine (DSFM) to replace 37 separate school divisions in Manitoba. This would require Winnipeg, St. James, Louis Riel, Pembina Trails, Seven Oaks and River East Transcona School Division to merge into one region for the City of Winnipeg representing 188,540 students. Committee members were informed that local School Boards would be replaced with a Provincial Education Authority.

Committee members were informed that through this new Governance Model School Community Councils would be established in place of Parent Councils. One parent representative of a School Community Council from each of the regions would be elected to the Provincial Advisory Council. This would result in one parent being elected to represent the City of Winnipeg schools and all parents.

Trustee Reid provided an overview of Bill 64 which highlighted some of the proposed changes and the impact Bill 64 may have on programs and services. Committee members were informed that the Province expects \$40 million in savings that would go to frontline education across Manitoba, this equates to one half-time teacher per school in Manitoba. WSD provides services and programs such as Nutrition programs, Housing assistance, Health connections, Reading Recovery, Math Pathways, Autism programs, Anxiety Programs, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program which support our families. Committee members were informed that Manitoba Education believes that a complete restructuring of education is necessary to find efficiencies, meanwhile, suggestions of modest and less disruptive changes such as merging services would result in immediate savings. WSD receives less than 60 percent of its operating revenue from the Province and has no choice but to rely on property taxes to fund resources needed for important programming for students. The Committee was informed that Manitoba Education claims that Indigenous students are falling behind because only 51 percent of Indigenous students graduate within four-years, compared to 90 percent graduation rate among their non-indigenous peers. Committee members were informed that pointing to a four-year graduation rate as the indicator of success shows ignorance of the socio-economic and social status challenges students face. WSD supports a large number of Indigenous students who return to school and successfully complete their diploma as mature students. Many Indigenous students overcome trauma in order to successfully graduate which may take more than four years to achieve, but is no less a success.

Committee members were informed that Mulvey School Parent Council has already mobilized and reached out to other parent councils to stand together against Bill 64. A facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Action-Committee-re-bill-64-108846324635392> has been created for those interested, which provides information summarizing the Education Modernization Act as well as events and ways parents can get involved.

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Committee members were informed that the government spent one million dollars on a review of the education system in Manitoba, however very few of the recommendations from the Commissioners report were reflected in Bill 64.

Committee members were informed that under the new model the responsibilities of the Parent Advisory Council are unclear, and that the education system needs to be operated by educators and not by appointed officials.

Trustee Chen informed Committee members that the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternative (CCPA) held a webinar recently where a previous member of the Parent Advisory Council in Nova Scotia provided insight on what can be expected under the new model which is the current model being used in Nova Scotia. The Nova Scotia representative informed the audience that under the new model, parents are left without direction and have focused their questions and frustrations on teachers and Principals who are not the decision makers. The Committee was informed that the webinar can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX-K3kvz8eY>.

Trustee Reid informed Committee members that under Bill 64 parents are defined as legal guardians which excludes grandparents, aunt or uncles as they would have no voice in Education. The Minister of Education would have ultimate decision making power. A Committee member expressed that although they have no school-aged children, they still care a great deal about Education in Manitoba.

Committee members were informed that under the new model there would not be any parent councils in the traditional sense, which would mean there would be no treasurer to assist in holding fundraisers which may result in a loss of opportunities for schools. Committee members expressed concern that being unable to fundraise would result in great losses for schools and students.

Committee members agreed that Bill 64 did not appear to offer any significant improvements to the Education system. Committee members also voiced concern that one parent representative could not represent the needs of such diverse school communities.

Committee members were informed that the Division is available to assist with any initiatives by providing information or summarizing documents. Committee members were also informed that Trustees are available to speak to Parent Councils or other groups.

Committee members were encouraged to act now and get involved by joining coalitions, letter writing campaigns, writing letters to their MLA's or requesting to appear as a delegation by contacting Manitoba Legislative Assembly to ensure their voices are heard. Committee members were informed that it is important to act quickly as waiting until the new school year may be too late to evoke change.

3. PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION

Committee members received an overview on the timelines outlined by the Province to consult with parents, Parent Advisory Councils, and School Staff regarding the role and processes for School Community Councils and the establishment of the Provincial Education Authority.

Committee members were informed that during the spring/summer of 2021, the Province intends to consult with parents, parent advisory councils, and school staff on the role parents

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can play in decision making and the role and processes for school community councils. The Province also intends to consult with education staff and stakeholders on priority actions as well as establishing a curriculum review panel, and a new assessment framework.

Committee members were informed that by fall of 2021, the Province intends to release a road map for the implementation of the priority actions and the timelines for change.

Committee members were informed that by November 2021, the Province anticipates having the Provincial Education Authority established along with the changes to the current school trustee system expected by July 1, 2022.

Committee members agreed that one year to implement the proposed changes could not be done effectively.

4. MAPC BILL 64 MEETING INVITATION

Committee members were informed that MAPC is organizing a coalition of parent councils and allies to save public education in Manitoba. Parent Councils are being invited to participate in zoom meetings to discuss and develop a campaign to stop Bill 64.

Committee members were informed that any interested participants can RSVP to info@mapc.mb.ca with "Save Public Education Coalition" in the subject line. Virtual meetings will take place April 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM or April 22, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Additional Virtual meetings have been scheduled for April 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM and May 5, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

5. MINISTER OF EDUCATION'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Committee members were informed that the Minister of Education is receiving application from Students for the Minister of Education's Student Advisory Council. The Student Advisory Council would be comprised of up to 20 Manitoba youth, aged 14 – 18 and would report directly to the Minister of Education. Council members would serve a 12 month term starting in August, 2021 and ending August 2022. Council members would also meet with government staff and education stakeholders via virtual meetings.

Committee members were informed that the Student Advisory Council would discuss and provide input to the Minister on aspects of the education system and how they affect the children and young people who experience it today; bring youth insights to the department and the education sector to help inform the path forward; create a network for students across Manitoba with a way to share their perspectives and advice and; provide feedback on department initiatives and work collaboratively with fellow council members.

Committee members were informed that more information on the Minister of Education's Student Advisory Council and instructions on how to apply to visit <https://bettereducationmb.ca>.

Committee members were informed that the deadline for applications is Monday, May 10, 2021 and successful applicants would be announced in June 2021.

6. RENAMING OF CECIL RHODES SCHOOL UPDATE

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees received an overview of the results and confirmed that the school community and the community at large did not speak with one voice. In respecting the two different voices a conclusive recommendation was not

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reached however, the members of the Committee felt that naming schools after individuals lends itself to conflicting ideals as societal values continue to be in constant flux.

Committee members were informed that the results of the survey for the Renaming of Cecil Rhodes School had been referred to the Building/Transportation Committee for review and consideration. The Building/Transportation Committee will be presenting their recommendation to the Board of Trustees at a meeting being held on May 3, 2021.

7. WSD 150th ANNIVERSARY

Committee members were informed that on October 20, 2021, WSD will be turning 150 years old. As part of the celebration schools are being invited to participate by creating a school banner that will be installed on lamp posts along Main Street and Portage Avenue. School Principals will provide more information at a later date.

8. SRO UPDATE

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the results of the SRO survey will be presented to the Board of Trustees on May 3, 2021 for review and consideration.

9. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- Sargent Park School

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Elmwood High School
Isaac Brock School
Lord Selkirk School
Sargent Park School
Tec Voc High School

Regrets

Cecil Rhodes School
Clifton School
Ecole George V School
Glenelm School
Greenway School
Kent Road School
Laura Secord School
Principal Sparling School
River Elm School
Ecole Sacre-Coeur
Weston School
Wolseley School

Administration

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Education Services
Joyce Wong, Director
Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer
Adam Dyck, Vice-Principal Tec Voc High School
Alison Petrelli, Vice-Principal Lord Selkirk School
Amie Johnston, Principal Lord Selkirk School
Brian Rowgowsky, Principal Wolseley School
Christopher Torrance, Vice-Principal Elmwood High School
Dennis Mogg, Principal Tec Voc High School
Emil Contreras, Vice-Principal Sargent Park School
Jeannette Tourangeau, Vice-Principal Elmwood High School
Lindsey Munz, Vice-Principal Tec Voc High School
Melody Woloschuk, Vice-Principal Sargent Park School
Michael Babb, Principal Elmwood High School
Michelle Sacco, Vice-Principal Tec Voc High School
Wade Gregg, Principal Laura Secord School
Aaron Benarroch, Principal W.A.E.C.
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Trustees

Arlene Reid
Jennifer Chen
Linda Schatkowsky



SARGENT PARK SCHOOL

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School Culture

We are in awe with how quickly the school year is marching right along with students actively engaged in learning, in class and at home, with the support of dedicated teachers, educational assistants, support staff and families. We couldn't be more proud of the collective efforts of staff, students and families to ensure we maintain our focus on academic growth through rich learning opportunities, and health and well-being.

The month of March, students took part in "Mindful March" where students were given an opportunity to learn how to practice mindfulness through a variety of daily activities that brought specific awareness to the present moment, which unites our bodies with our thoughts.





ACTION CALENDAR: MINDFUL MARCH 2021



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness	2 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world outside	3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive	4 Notice how you speak to yourself. Try to use kind words	5 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day	6 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them	7 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels
8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture & smell of your food	9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others	10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face	11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee	12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying	13 Pause to just watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today	14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that need doing
15 Stop, breathe and just notice. Repeat regularly during the day	16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity	17 Look around and spot 3 things you find unusual or pleasant	18 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down	19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today	20 Celebrate the International Day of Happiness dayofhappiness.net	21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
22 Walk a different route today and see what you notice	23 Tune in to your feelings, without judging or trying to change	24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do	25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted	26 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible	27 Have a device-free day and enjoy the space it offers	28 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are
29 Notice what is working today and be thankful that this is so	30 Mentally scan down your body and notice what it is feeling	31 Notice the joy to be found in the simple things of life	"Mindfulness means that we commit fully in each moment to be present" - Jon Kabat-Zinn			





ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/mindful-march

www.actionforhappiness.org

Happier · Kinder · Together

April 14th, Sargent Park showed their support on the International Day of Pink. It is a day where communities across the country, and across the world, can unite in celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of bullying





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In celebration for Earth Day, students and teachers participated in a physically distanced community clean up around the community, school, and neighbourhood. Students learned valuable lessons on taking care of our planet and the importance of the three R's (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle).



Academics

Parent/ Teacher/ Student Virtual Conferences took place March 18th in the evening and 19th during the day. These conferences were a vital component of moving student learning forward with the celebration of achievement, reflection on strengths and challenges and putting plans in place for continued academic growth as well as planning for a strong finish to the final three months of this school year.

This unique year has brought on new and innovative ways to learning. Despite not being in school, the teachers at Sargent Park are using technology and infusing the lessons students are receiving in the classroom to those at home. The grade one remote learners have been working hard learning all about owls. They chose to showcase their knowledge in a creative way.





SARGENT PARK SCHOOL

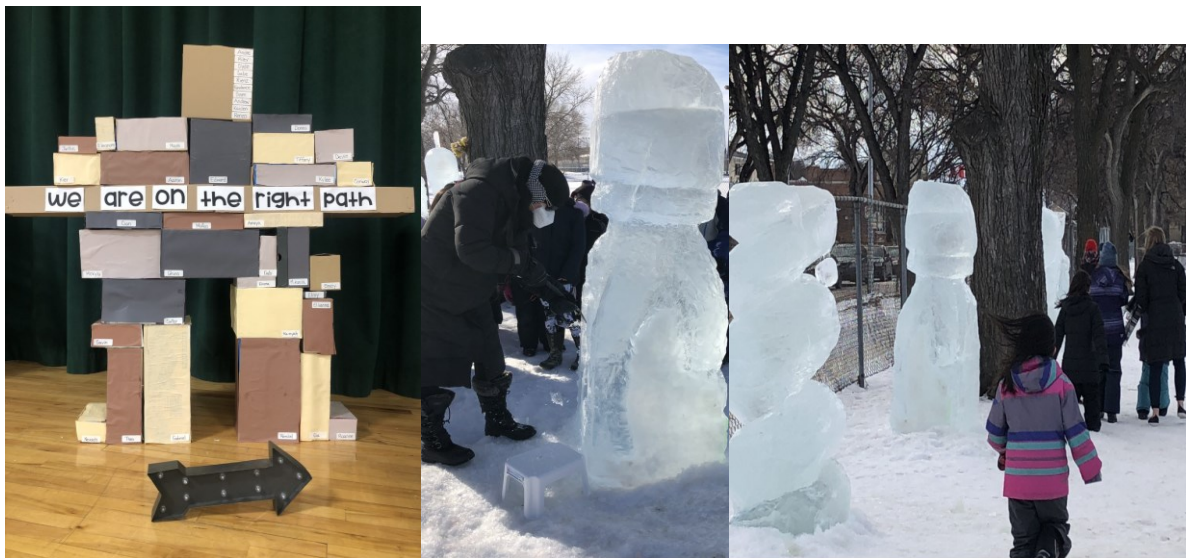
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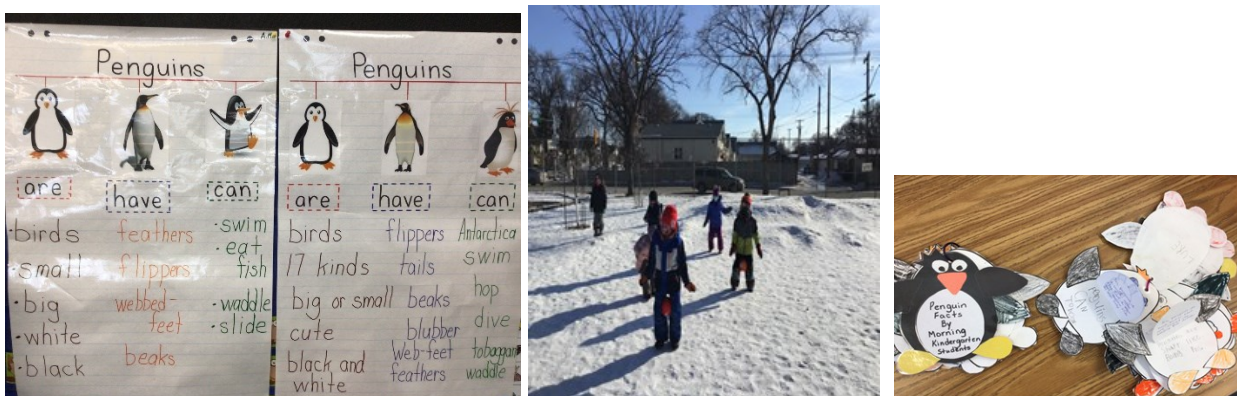
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As classes 105 and 103 learn about Canada's North, the student's were lucky enough to go on a community field trip to view the amazing ice sculptures right in our "own backyard". While there, the classes were also fortunate enough to meet up with one of the ice carving artists. Students learned about where the blocks of ice come from, what tools are used to carve and what dangers come with ice carving. The teachers took lots of pictures so that the remote students could participate in the learning with a virtual field trip (many of them visited the ice sculptures in person with their families). To wrap it all up the students watched the World Ice Carving Competition from the Arctic and then designed and sketched their own sculptures and wrote about them.



The Kindergarten students in Room 22 have been busy researching and learning about penguins through reading many non-fiction books and watching videos. The students have also had opportunities to practice their waddle walk, read penguin poems, draw penguins, make a class book with penguin facts, compare height to the tallest penguin (the Emperor) and learn a fun penguin dance.





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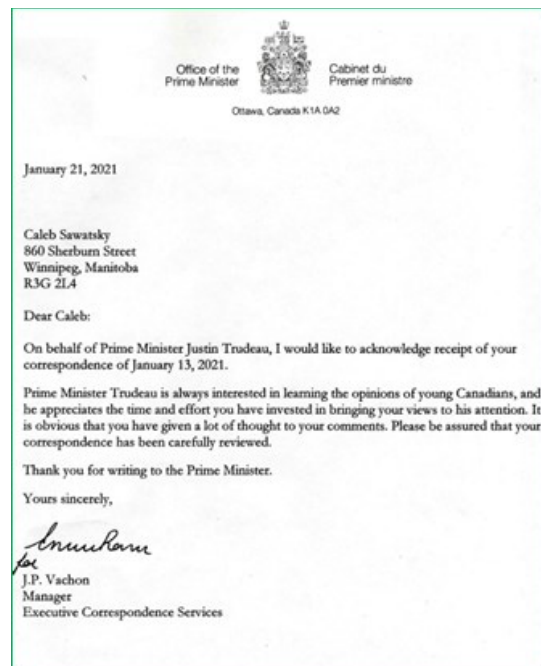
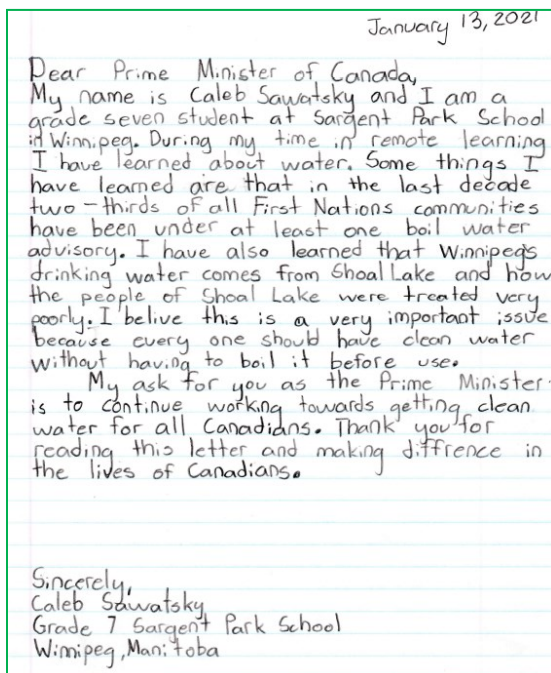
Grade 7 Students Teaching Others What It Means to Work for Change

Students have turned to activism and activity to make a difference in their classrooms and community. During this unique time in school students have been asked to meet the challenges of isolation, physical distancing and blended learning. Grade seven students in particular have responded to these challenges by remaining active in creative writing as activists and community care by hitting the streets with "hockey sock" care package donations.

Caleb Sawatzky (708) responded to the call to write a letter to the Prime Minister. It was all about water issues in Canada. Not only did he and many others in class write a letter but he decided to also mail his postage-free letter to Ottawa. Caleb's letter draws attention to the plight of many indigenous people with water issues in Canada and Manitoba. His letter can be seen attached to this newsletter as well as the response he received from Ottawa.

The activism through writing was initiated by working on a Water Awareness and Issue project during the 2 weeks of remote learning after the holiday break. During this exploration Caleb was asked what, if anything, he found surprising or even shocking about the topic of water for the haves and the havenots. "I didn't realize how bad water affected so many things from people to animals who get confused by poisoned water. I also was shocked by how many people have to boil water just to use it."

The project turned out to be a valuable learning experience knowing that Winnipeg water is coming from Shoal Lake. It is here, Caleb also learned, that the Indigenous People living at the lake have not had clean or available water close to them for the last 100 years.





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Athletics/Physical Activity

Our Junior High and Elementary Physical Education classes have been enjoying the outdoors! They had the opportunity to try snowshoeing, tobogganing, slushing boards and broomball! On the days it was too cold to go outside, they learned how to use resistance bands to complete full body workouts as well as fitness activities and challenges.



Parent Teacher Association

A huge THANK YOU to the PTA for organizing and launching the 2021 Spring Fundraiser. This year, they were able to sell various garden items such as bedding plants, perennials, vegetables, Gift Cards and more.

