

CENTRAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2023

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board

February 8, 2023

The Central District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples of Canada

The Committee was informed that the meeting of the Central District Advisory Committee is taking place on Treaty One land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Métis.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda of February 8, 2023, as distributed.

3. 2023/2024 Draft Budget

The Committee received a copy of the 2023/2024 Draft Budget for review.

The Committee was informed provincial funding has increased in the amount of \$8,314,777 or 4.1%.

A parent representative shared concerns regarding the availability of an off-campus option for children who require inclusion support while transitioning from elementary to junior high. The parent representative recommended that there should be an option to open Grade 7 and 8 schools to accommodate children transitioning from elementary school.

The Committee discussed the need for additional bus drivers and improved service for transportation, crossing guards, nursery programs and mental health and learning supports for reading and math recovery. The Committee discussed the recovery of post-COVID and how it has affected the children and parent's mental health. It was also discussed that multiple children are falling behind in school as there is not enough Educational Assistants to support children. The Committee recommended that more Educational Assistant support is required for children who are undiagnosed and require support. The Committee recommended that the allocation of Education Assistants should be based on equity.

A parent representative recommended not spending the budget on wages, new programs (unless it's sustainable) and suggested leaning towards infrastructure in schools including purchasing new buses, fixing windows or insulation. The Committee was informed that it takes \$30,000 to assess a school for repairs.

Parent representatives recommended that schools should be offering the lunch program instead of parent councils. The Committee also suggested that lunch programs should not be fee based and that lunch program staff should be trained to supervise children in the lunch program. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees received a lot of information and feedback from schools and parent councils regarding lunch programs. The feedback on lunch programs will be received by the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.

A parent representative informed Committee that the Seven Oaks School Division does not charge fees for lunch programs and suggested that WSD obtain information on how they manage their lunch program. The Committee was informed that each lunch program runs differently and that school divisions spend their budget depending on their priorities. The Committee also discussed the School Resource Officer program and requested that this be added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

A parent representative commented that there is not enough Educational Assistants (EAs) in schools to support the inclusive classrooms. The Committee was informed that additional funding has been allocated to assist with hiring staff.

The Committee discussed the grade levels in schools and agreed that middle schools (Grade 7 to 8) should be separate from high school (Grade 9 to 12).

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Chambers
Trustee Representative

In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Clifton School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute
Elmwood High School
Glenelm School
Isaac Brock School
Keewatin Prairie Community School
Laura Secord School
Lord Selkirk School
Sargent Park School
Tec. Voc. High School

Administration

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Education Services
Dino Di Fabrizio, (Acting) Director
Joyce Wong, (Acting) Director
Ara Morris, Principal Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute High School
Jennifer Donachuk, Vice-Principal Elmwood High School
Chris Goring, Principal Isaac Brock School
Amie Johnston, Principal Lord Selkirk School
Tyler Vanderberg, Vice-Principal Lord Selkirk School
Malysa Brown, Secretary Lord Selkirk School
Dennis Mogg, Principal Technical-Vocational High School
Kristine Carino, Vice-Principal Technical-Vocational High School
Michelle Lejano, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Ecole George V School
Greenway School
Kent Road School
Principal Sparling School
École Sacré-Coeur School
Weston School
Wolseley School
W.A.E.C.

Trustees

Rebecca Chambers
Tamara Kuly
Perla Javate
Kathy Heppner
Ann Evangelista