

CENTRAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2025

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board

February 20, 2025

The Central District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee 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. WSD 2025/2026 Budget Consultation

The Committee was informed that at the previous meeting, the Board of Trustees requested parents/guardians provide feedback on the following questions; If we had unlimited resources, what would you prioritize in the upcoming budget? What are your top 3 priorities for the budget given that resources are not unlimited? What initiatives or programs/supports should we enhance? Or what should we move away from?

At a meeting held January 13, 2025, the Board of Trustees received feedback from over 700 families. The common themes outlined in the feedback were increasing staffing, improved instruction, increasing afterschool programming and providing additional technology in schools.

The Committee was informed that WSD is committed to lowering class sizes and having more learning support teachers and Educational Assistants (EAs) for the classroom, as well as providing additional clinical support staff.

The Committee was also informed that in an effort to improve instruction, WSD is prioritizing early mathematics and literacy instruction. Staff will be provided additional learning days (within the 10 days provided) and WSD is developing a professional development fund for teachers.

The Committee was informed that WSD will continue to support community partners such as Community Education Development Association (CEDA), Pathways, Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre (WASAC), Peaceful Village, and Boys and Girls Club of Canada.

The Committee was informed that WSD is in the processes of increasing the number of tablets, upgrades in technology in schools. WSD is currently undergoing an upgrade to the network and increasing supports.

The Committee members was informed that WSD is committed to reducing expenses for families by eliminating lunch supervision fees, supporting a universal nutrition program, covering school supplies and field trip transportation fees as well as upgrading aging school play structures so families do not have to fundraise. Committee members were informed that in the 2025/2026 school year, WSD will be upgrading 3 school play structures and installing 5 industrial kitchens.

WSD will also be investing in creative programming including a global issues pilot program at Gordon Bell and Collège Churchill high schools, developing additional International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, creating an inner-city STEAM lab at Hugh John Macdonald, a career lab at R.B. Russell Vocational High School and putting on a science fair and historical thinking symposium.

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The Committee was informed that WSD leads the way in investing in student support and resources amongst Winnipeg metro school divisions.

The Committee was informed the province announced a 3.4% overall increase for education. The Committee members was informed that WSD received a 2.4% increase. The Committee was informed that the proposed budget for the 2025/2026 school year is \$529,418,325 which in an increase of \$49,069,225 over the budget from the current school year. In order to achieve a balanced budget an increase of 3.4% of the current mill rate would be required, which would increase property tax for the average homeowner by approximately \$52 annually or \$4.35 a month. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees wants to be mindful before requesting any increase to the property levy.

The Committee were also informed that WSD is increasing the number of library technician positions so that every school will have a library technician. In response to the enquiry regarding the employment on library technician positions, the Committee were informed that they were for internal staff only. The Committee were encouraged to request books for the library through the Principal.

The Committee was provided a QR code to a survey where they could provide additional feedback to the Board of Trustees regarding the budget. Committee members were also invited to attend the public forum at Tec Voc High School on Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. for additional budget information. Anyone wishing to appear as a delegation at the public forum at Tec Voc may register with the Board Office at 204-775-0231 or email board@wsd1.org.

3. Strategic Plan

At a previous meeting, the Committee was provided a timeline which outlined the development of the Strategic Plan. In November to March 2024, Trustees worked with consultants to develop a shared understanding of strategic planning process, which examined existing data, methodology and actions for data gathering. From April to June 2024 the Trustees launched multiple sessions and different processes to gather guidance and feedback from families, community organizations, staff and students. Over the summer from June to August, the data was analyzed by an external team of researchers and in meetings held early in the school year trustees shared data analysis the families, community organizations, staff and students to validate and correct any misunderstandings.

The Committee was informed that Trustees, Administration and consultants worked together to develop the WSD Strategic Plan 2025-2030 based on the data collected. Committee members were informed that there were three (3) main themes that came out of the data, Joy (creating a sense of community), Love (supporting a sense of belonging) and Rigour (preparing learners for excellence). Committee members were informed that WSD is committed to providing opportunities for learners to feel confident in the future, inspired, fulfilled, engaged and full of hope. WSD is committed to creating a sense of belonging where every learner is known by multiple adults and they feel safe, respected and free to express their true selves. WSD is also committed to preparing learners for excellence, where every learner feels supported and challenged to excel every day through meaningful activities and lessons to achieve their goals.

The Committee was informed that the Strategic Plan also outlines four (4) High-level strategies. The first strategy is to seek truth and reconciliation by answering the calls to action related to the cultivation of culture, community, language and land in WSD schools. WSD is committed to removing barriers for Indigenous people to lead WSD and contribute to the WSD community.

The second strategy is to build community schools that are barrier free. WSD is committed to eliminating barriers to education, including all exclusionary practices, creating sticky schools that extend the day and keep learners close and to nurture neighbourhood schools that support all

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learners.

The third strategy is the to develop a culture of thinking and shared sense of responsibility for all children. WSD is committed to developing the capacity in school leaders to unleash the power of the classroom teacher and to cultivate the conditions for the highest quality teaching and deepest learning.

The final strategy is equitable distribution of resources. WSD is committed to distributing resources so that they have the maximum impact for the learners who need them most and to empower and support schools to shift resources for maximum impact.

The Committee discussed concerns regarding the political climate and the potential for transphobic rhetoric in WSD. The Committee was informed that WSD has policies in place to protect gender diverse students

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Chambers
Trustee Representative

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Attendance:

Voting Representatives:

Clifton School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Elmwood High School
Isaac Brock School
Keewatin Prairie School
Lord Selkirk School
River Elm School
Ecole Sacre-Coeur
Technical Vocational High School

Regrets:

Ecole George V School
Greenway School
Kent Road School
Principal Sparling School
Ecole Sacre-Coeur School
Weston School
Winnipeg Adult Education Centre

Administration:

Matthew Henderson, Superintendent
Lorelei Bunkowsky, Assistant Superintendent
Clayton Bodkyn, Secretary-Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer
Melody Woloschuk, Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Amie Johnston, Acting Principal, Elmwood High School
Christopher Torrance, Vice-Principal, Elmwood High School
Ian Macleod, Vice-Principal, Elmwood High School
Kristine Carino, Vice-Principal, Elmwood High School
Chris Goring, Principal, Isaac Brock School
Sari Rosenberg, Principal, Keewatin Prairie Community School
Misty Perrun, Vice-Principal, Keewatin Prairie Community School
Gabrielle Katchanoski, Vice-Principal, Lord Selkirk School
Marla Tran, Principal, River Elm School
Garth McAlpine, Principal, Technical Vocational High School
David Vo, Administrative Clerk, Board Office

Trustees:

Rebecca Chambers
Perla Javate
Kathy Heppner