

**EDUCATION EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2026**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 10, 2026

The Education Equity Advisory Committee report 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 2026-2027 Budget Discussion

The Superintendent provided an overview of the 2026/2027 Draft Budget. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is in the process of drafting the budget based on a stand pat budget.

Last year, WSD committed to smaller classroom sizes, increasing positions for teachers, educational assistants and clinical support staff. WSD has been working to reduce financial barriers for families by providing no-fee lunch programs and field trips, expanding childcare facilities and after-school programming in schools, and installing new school play structures that are funded by WSD. The implementation of a Universal Nutrition Program and installation of kitchens in some schools has also assisted in reducing financial barriers for families. WSD has also been working toward the renewal of school libraries, enriched programming in Math, Literacy, STEM, and the Arts and Music, updating IT network and classroom technology and developing a teacher professional development fund.

For the 2026/2027 school year, WSD is proposing to implement full-day Kindergarten in six schools, expanding childcare spaces in schools, investing more in school repairs and infrastructure, planning a new high school in northwest Winnipeg, building additional tracks and playing fields at schools, using consistent early reading checks to support young learners, strengthening math learning through JUMP Math teacher training, expanding hands-on land-based and project-based learning, adding more 'Global Issues' programming to Senior years schools, upgrading more IT network and school technology and keeping school taxes responsible while meeting employee wage increases.

The Committee was informed that since 2023, WSD has added 134.1 teacher positions, 275.2 educational assistant positions and 5 clinician positions. WSD is proposing to maintain staffing levels for the 2026/2027 school year.

The Committee was informed that due to recently negotiated contracts and increased wages for teachers, expenditures for the 2026/2027 school year are anticipated to be approximately 4.9% more than the previous year. WSD anticipates a 2% increase in provincial funding over last year and is proposing to increase the mill rate by 1.067. This increase based on a home valued at \$269,900 in WSD would be paying an additional \$8 per month (or \$95 annually) in property tax.

The Committee was informed that a mill rate increase will allow WSD maintain stable public education by addressing rising costs from collective agreements, such as wage harmonization, teacher preparation time, and provincial requirements for smaller class sizes. If Provincial

funding amounts to a 2% increase, minor adjustments may need to be made to offset current expenditures.

The Committee was informed that exemptions allowing businesses to avoid paying taxes within the Winnipeg School Division contribute to funding disparities. The Committee identified the need for discussions with the Minister and the Mayor to advocate for solutions that would help bridge funding gaps between school divisions.

The Committee was informed that organizations like True North have foundations that contribute back to our communities. The Committee was informed that in the United States, tax exemptions were meant to be time-limited to assist in development of an area. The Committee was encouraged to seek more transparency and publicly advocate with the provincial government, stressing that everyone pays taxes and deserves accountability.

The Committee was informed that educational assistants, transportation, and life skills programs are provided based on the needs of the individual. The Committee was informed that funding does not follow individual students but is allocated to provide flexible support as needed, with early assessments, universal screening, and learning support teams guiding interventions. The Committee was also informed that with inclusive education, WSD has high expectations for all students and affirmed that eligible students can receive support until age 21. The Committee discussed reframing the term disability as determined, noting that individuals with disabilities simply learn differently and advocate for more inclusive language and perspectives.

The Committee was informed that WSD will be distributing a survey to all families to provide feedback to assist the Board of Trustees in finalizing the budget. A QR code and a link to the survey will be emailed to parents and will also be available on the WSD website. The Committee was also informed that WSD will be hosting a budget meeting Tuesday, February 24, in the Board Room at 1577 Wall Street at 5:00 p.m. Those wishing to appear as a delegation regarding the budget can register by contacting the Board and Community Liaison Office by emailing board@wsd1.org no later than Thursday, February 19.

### 3. AI Technology

The Committee received an update on AI Technology in schools. The Committee was informed that some schools have used AI for school projects and that the framework is being developed for the use of AI to support learning.

### 4. Diversity & Anti-Racism

The Committee has agreed to defer this item to the next Education Equity Advisory Committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Edel  
Committee Chair

### In Attendance:

Trustees: B. Edel, L. Brothers  
Administration: M. Henderson, M. Rezai, M. Burke, D. Vo (Administrative Assistant)  
Committee Members: C. Chuacuco, B. Conia, A. Nour, G. Tan, X. Wang  
Regrets: A. Evangelista, T. Kuly