

December 2, 2024

French Immersion Advisory Committee Report No. 3-2024

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2024

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 21, 2024

The French Immersion Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples of Canada

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. Election of the Committee Chair

The Committee was informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees held on September 16, 2024, Trustee Jamie Dumont was appointed as the Board's representative, and Trustee Kathy Heppner was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

Trustee Dumont chaired the meeting as there were no parent representative volunteers.

3. Guidelines For Board Advisory Committees

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees approved a motion to revise the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees. The revisions include transitioning to an Elementary, Middle Years and Senior Years meeting structure, Division-wide membership, appointment of a Trustee to serve as chair, removing quorum requirements, and moving from voting to a consensus-based decision-making process.

The Committee received a copy of the revised Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees for review and to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees via board@wsd1.org no later than December 20, 2024. The Committee was informed that if members require clarification on the Guidelines, they may contact Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer at brlapointe@wsd1.org.

4. 2025/2026 Budget Consultation

The Committee was informed that the Province of Manitoba has confirmed that a new funding model will be provided to school divisions in the development of the 2025/2026 budget. The new formula will not be available to school boards until the funding announcement has been made.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees will also be distributing a survey to all WSD families which will assist in the development of the draft budget.

The Committee shared concerns regarding the possible changes of programs/services if the province reduces funding. In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that WSD will provide as much notice to families as possible regarding any changes to programs/services, however, the timeline for when the budget is due to the province limits the amount of notice the

Division is able to provide. The Committee agreed having conversations prior to finalizing the budget is vital so families can advocate for the programs/services most important to them.

In preparation of the budget announcement, the Board is inviting families to provide feedback to the Board no later than December 15th, 2024, on the following questions: If we had unlimited resources, what would you prioritize in the upcoming budget? What are your top three priorities for the upcoming budget given that resources are not unlimited? What initiatives or programs/supports should we enhance? Or what should we move away from?

5. **Strategic Plan Verification of Data**

The Committee was informed that during the 2023/2024 school year, numerous meetings were held to gather feedback from the WSD community to assist in the development of the Strategic Plan. The feedback received will play a vital role in helping to identify key priorities, set goals and develop strategies that will guide WSD efforts to enhance education opportunities and improve student outcomes and promote equity and inclusivity across WSD.

Over the summer months, the feedback was collected and collated by the Critical Thinking Consortium for presentation to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting for their review and consideration.

Prior to presenting the report, it was agreed that as part of the second phase of the development of the Strategic Plan, the information would be shared with those individuals who were interested in providing input on how their feedback was captured and reflected in the findings.

The Committee was asked to contact brlapointe@wsd1.org no later than December 20, 2024, if the data does not reflect/capture the feedback provided. The Committee was also reminded that the purpose is to ensure accurate information was collected, not to provide new or additional feedback.

6. **Ward Boundaries**

The Committee was informed that at a meeting held October 16, 2023, the members of the Board adopted a motion to establish a Ward Boundaries Review Committee to review the results of the 2022 election to ensure the boundaries met the requirements outlined in the Public Schools Act. The Public Schools Act states that each trustee of a school division divided into wards shall represent, in so far as it is practicable, approximately the same number of electors. The number of electors per trustee is determined by dividing the total number of resident electors in the Division by the total number of trustees.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is in the process of reviewing the 2020 election results and boundaries to determine the need and identify options for consideration of redrawing the boundaries with the least impact to meet legislation requirements.

7. Fundraising In Schools

The Committee was also informed that the members of the Board will be reviewing Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools in the near future.

The Committee was informed that in accordance with Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools, the Division recognizes that schools may wish to supplement their school budgets in support of student activities and charitable causes. However, it is important that fundraising does not occur for materials already funded by the provincial government.

The Committee was informed that fundraising can continue, but to be mindful of what the funds are being used for and to meet with school administration to discuss alternate funding options prior to launching a fundraiser.

The Committee was informed that the goal of the fundraising policy is to ensure that all families and students are able to participate in all activities and events.

The Committee was also informed that any fundraising that is completed needs to be documented in the minutes of the PAC and must include the purpose of the fundraiser as well as the amount of funds raised.

8. French Immersion Recruitment and Retention – Update

The Committee was informed that French Immersion Teacher recruitment continues to be a challenge across Canada. WSD is actively recruiting through social media and open houses, showcasing the unique programs and services offered through the Division. WSD has also taken out ad space in La Liberté, a local French newspaper.

WSD has developed a strong relationship with St. Boniface University (USB), the University of Winnipeg (U of W) and University of Manitoba (U of M) to aid in recruitment of French Immersion teachers.

In response to an enquiry, The Committee was informed that USB has increased the number of spots available for students' pursuing education. The Committee was also informed that the province is developing a recruitment plan as well.

WSD is also looking at internationally trained teachers and exploring options to remove barriers for employment.

9. Cultiver Les Leaders Culturels Et Linguistiques En Immersion/ Cultivating Cultural and Linguistic Leaders In Immersion

The Committee was informed that WSD is currently working with 70 senior years students in a leadership program that allows students to work in the community as well as acting as a role model to early/middle years students. WSD will support students who choose to pursue education in post-secondary school as an incentive to have them return to WSD once they are ready to begin their careers.

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10. Professional Learning with A Focus on Inclusion In French Immersion

The Committee was informed that based on feedback from surveys for the development of the Strategic Plan, as well as the work being done regarding inclusion and equity, WSD is exploring how to improve French Immersion programs as well as training for staff.

Respectfully Submitted,

JAMIE DUMONT
Trustee Representative

In Attendance:**Voting Representatives:**

École Luxton
École River Heights
École Riverview
École Sacre-Coeur
École Secondaire Kelvin
École Stanley Knowles

Administration:

Shelley Warkentin, Assistant Superintendent
Celia Caetano-Gomes, Assistant Superintendent
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School
Lauranne Benoit, Vice-Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin
Jessica Mayor-Rodrigues, Principal, École Lansdowne
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

College Churchill High School
École Garden Grove
École George V
École J.B. Mitchell
École Lansdowne
École Laura Secord
École LaVénrendrye
École Robert H. Smith
École Sir William Osler
École Sisler High School
École Victoria Albert
École Waterford Springs

Trustees:

Jamie Dumont
Kathy Heppner