

March 6, 2023

French Immersion Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2023

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2023

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 21, 2023

The French Immersion Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples of Canada

The Committee was informed that the meeting of the French Immersion Advisory Committee is taking place on Treaty One Land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Métis.

2. Election of Committee Chair

The parent representative from École Sacre-Coeur volunteered to chair the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda for February 21, 2023, was approved by the Committee as distributed.

4. 2023/2024 Draft Budget

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees are currently in the process of obtaining feedback on the 2023/2024 budget. The Committee was informed that for 2023/2024, the Board of Trustees is proposing a budget that maintains existing programs and allows for a limited number of additional supports for students in the areas of bilingual language programs, transportation, increased student support services and educational assistants. The Committee was informed that revenue from property tax will remain frozen at the 2020 level.

The Committee was informed that on February 2, 2023, the Province announced the new funding formula for Manitoba schools, which included an increase of \$100 million dollars in provincial funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools. The additional funding represents an increase of approximately 4.1 percent in operating funding for Winnipeg School Division.

The Committee was informed that WSD provides programming outside of what is mandated by the Public Schools Act including staffing for intercultural and newcomer supports, library and computer technicians, adult crossing guards, off-campus programs, additional early years professional development, library support services and attendance officers. WSD also offers additional programming such as Therapy services, summer school, nutrition programs, nursery as well as providing funding for students attending events outside of the Division.

The Committee requested that funding be provided for additional French speaking educational assistants (EA's) in French Immersion schools to assist with French language exposure for students.

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The Committee was informed that a Special Board meeting will be held on February 27, 2023, 7:00 pm at 1577 Wall Street. Anyone wishing to provide additional feedback on the budget may register as a delegation. Budget feedback can also be submitted via email to Board@wsd1.org.

5. French Immersion Plan and Program Review

The Acting Superintendent of Education Services was in attendance and provided an update on the French Immersion Plan and Program review.

The Committee was informed that WSD has been actively recruiting additional French Immersion teachers. The Committee was informed that WSD has been successful in hiring some teachers and will be hosting an open house on March 8th, 2023, at Prince Charles Educational Resource Centre, to recruit students that are fluent in French that have been studying in the English stream at the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba.

The Committee was informed that Universities require education students that wish to do their practicum in a French Immersion classroom to first write the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) exam. The Committee was informed that WSD is exploring the option to train staff in administering the DELF exam and to assist in preparing students to take the exam.

The Committee was informed that WSD has applied for grant funding through the Federal Government which would provide funding to develop a program mirrored after the WSD "Build from Within" program for French students.

The Committee was informed that WSD is also exploring options for vocational schools to partner with French Immersion schools to provide French students more options for vocational programs.

The Committee was informed the French Immersion Provincial Plan is still under review and it is anticipated additional information will be provided at a conference being held May 3, 2023.

6. French Program – Curriculum and Lesson Review

At the request of Trustee Evangelista, the French Program curriculum and lesson review was added to the agenda for discussion.

Trustee Evangelista provided an opportunity for Committee members to make recommendations on how to improve the French Immersion curriculum.

The Committee was informed that curriculum is developed by the province in consultation with education experts, teachers and principals and is reviewed regularly.

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Respectfully Submitted,

JAMIE DUMONT
Trustee Representative**In Attendance:****Voting Representatives:**

École J.B. Mitchell
École Lansdowne
École Laura Secord
École LaVerendrye
École Luxton
École Robert H. Smith
École Sacre-Coeur
École Sir William Osler
École Waterford Springs

Regrets:

College Churchill High School
École Garden Grove
École George V
École River Heights
École Riverview
École Secondaire Kelvin
École Sisler High School
École Stanley Knowles
École Victoria Albert

Administration:

Rob Riel, Acting Superintendent Education Services
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School
Joy Perrott, Principal, École Luxton
Dominique Ostermann, Principal, École Sir William Osler
Manuel Silva, Principal, École Waterford Springs
Recording Secretary, Tarin Howard

Trustees:

Jamie Dumont
Ann Evangelista
Tamara Kuly
Kathy Heppner
Lois Brothers