

**THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION**  
**FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, December 8, 2022**

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**1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA**

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

**2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Committee members were informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees held on November 7, 2022, Trustee Jamie Dumont was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Ann Evangelista was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee. The parent representative from École Sacre-Coeur volunteered to chair the meeting.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Dumont recommended that Policy KMB – Parent Council Lunch Programs be added to the agenda for discussion. The revised agenda for December 8, 2022, was approved by the Committee.

**4. WSD 2022/2023 DRAFT BUDGET**

Committee members were informed that on March 15, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a budget for the 2022/2023 school year in the amount of \$437,118,200, which included \$13,217,517 in one-time funding and \$525,358 from accumulated surplus to offset a budgeted deficit. Baseline funding decreased by 1.3 percent (or \$2,325,238) and property tax levies for education remain frozen at 2020 levels.

Committee members were informed that on November 18, 2021, the Province of Manitoba announced the creation of a consultant team to guide the development of a new education funding model which was expected to be implemented by school boards for the 2023/2024 school year, however, to date the province has not announced the new funding model.

Committee members were informed that the consultation team is to be made up of government officials and representatives from a number of organizations including (but not limited to) First Nations schools, independent schools, school superintendents, municipal organizations and parent councils.

Committee members were informed that the current funding model was implemented in the 2002-2003 school year. The goals of the review of the funding model include: creating a formula that allocates provincial funding to Manitoba's 37 school divisions; developing a stable, predictable and phased implementation plan to transition from the existing formula to the new in a way that can accommodate the progress of eliminating education property taxes; and ensuring the unique needs of the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) are accommodated in the design of the formula.

Committee members were informed that in previous years, the Board has been able to develop balanced budgets through the combination of provincial revenue as well as revenue from the property tax levy. Committee members were informed that provincial funding has dropped from approximately 61 percent of total costs in 2016, to 57 percent of total costs in 2022.

Committee members were informed that due to the drop in provincial funding there is an increased reliance on local property tax levies to make up the shortfall. Without the option to increase property taxes to fund programs and services the Board of Trustees have been forced to make difficult decisions regarding eliminating or reducing some programs unique to the needs of students and families.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees continues to send a strong message to government that it is important that the new funding model supports both the basic education and unique needs of our students and communities.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees are now in the process of developing the 2023/2024 budget. The members of the Board want to hear about education priorities for school communities.

Committee members were informed that the FRAME budget is available on the WSD website which provides information on how funding is allotted in the division.

## **5. FRENCH IMMERSION PLAN**

The Acting Superintendent, Education Services provided an overview of the French Immersion Plan.

Committee members were informed that the French Immersion plan was created by the Principals and Vice-Principals for the yearly school planning. The French Immersion plan is the result of a 5-year study by the Provincial Government and WSD.

Committee members were informed that the French Immersion Plan is divided into four major sections; Creating a French Immersion Setting, Validation of Students' Linguistic and Educational Experience, Educational Staff and Professional Learning and Student Enrolment Trends.

Committee members were informed that the four major sections are divided into subsections that have strategies and actions. Under the Creating a French Immersion Setting section, it is divided in four subsections: Intensive exposure to the French language, Qualified Educational Staff and Personnel, A linguistically Rich Environment and Inclusion and Appropriate Support for all Students.

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Committee members were informed that some of the strategies under creating a French Immersion Setting are: conduct early recruitment in the Fall and continued year-round, hire French speaking Clinicians and bilingual staff including Educational Assistants, Clerks, Custodians, collaborate with Association Canadienne des Professionels de l'immersion (ACPI), Université des Saint-Boniface(USB) for effective early recruitment of qualified bilingual personnel, and continue to offer support and activities to promote language for all students.

Committee members were informed that some of the actions/planning going forward for creating a French Immersion setting are: continued professional development to familiarize teachers with new curriculum, hire sufficient French Immersion pool of teachers to fill substitute requests, ensure specialists are bilingual, collaborate with Red River College and Université de Saint-Boniface in developing an Educational Assistant program and training course en francais, provide funding so French pre-hires can attend English Classes, provide funding to support educators who need to improve their French language skills.

Committee members were informed that recently the Principals and Vice-Principals discussed topics outlined in the plan with a focus on recruitment and the development of an action plan to address the barriers to the French Immersion program.

Committee members were informed that unfortunately there are not enough French Immersion teachers graduating to provide sufficient staffing for the current programs. Committee members were informed that there is a shortage of French Immersion teachers nation-wide and other provinces are actively attempting to recruit Manitoba French Immersion teachers as well.

Committee members discussed some of the barriers to French-fluent students from the University of Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba from becoming French Immersion teachers. Committee members were informed there is a provincial proficiency exam that deters many students from pursuing practicums in French Immersion classrooms.

Committee members discussed the importance of making French programming fun as well as educational to encourage students to continue in French education. Committee members also discussed encouraging students in grade 9-12 to consider the option of becoming French Immersion teachers.

Committee members were informed an updated will be provided at a future meeting.

## **6. FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM REVIEW**

At a previous meeting, the Committee received a copy of the five-year analysis report that was developed to provide information on student enrollment. The report included information on student transition to the International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs as well as the feasibility of offering these programs in French.

Committee members also discussed the retention and recruitment strategies for French Immersion Teachers used in WSD and the requirements to establish a program to mirror the Build from Within Teacher Development Program for Indigenous students.

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Committee members were informed that WSD has experienced a steady growth in enrolment with a high retention rate, particularly in the milieu settings. This is attributed to French Immersion being viewed as a strong and excellent program. Schools organize activities to value and promote the program through videos, family nights and Open Houses to provide information about transitions. The students are the best ambassadors, and when asked, the majority speak highly of their experiences in the French Immersion Program.

Committee members were informed that despite the many efforts by schools to promote the program, statistics show a decrease in enrolment as students move from elementary to junior high school and then to high school. This trend is consistent Province-wide, and according to the French Language Education Review, an initiative of the Bureau de l'éducation française (BEF), the main challenges influencing retention are student learning difficulties in earlier grades, while attrition during the transition years and limited options account for losses in Grades 8 to 12. WSD has responded to these challenges by hiring more French speaking Resource Teachers and qualified teachers to teach different options and subject areas.

Committee members were informed that WSD has three high schools offering the French Immersion Program to students from six feeder schools. As presented in the enrolment analysis, there is a decrease in the number of students moving from the jr. high French Immersion Program to the high school. Two major reasons for the decrease are that there is a tendency for teenagers to follow friends enrolled in different programs or schools, and the more limited number of option courses being offered in French at the high school level, in comparison to English. A small number of students opt to continue their education in the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) Programs.

Committee members discussed the trends in student retention for French Immersion and the potential for more blended programs.

Committee members were informed that an update will be provided at a future meeting.

## **7. RENAMING OF SCHOOLS**

Committee members were informed that during the 2021/22 school year, the Board of Trustees approved a motion to review all schools named after individuals with a history of actions that are not in accordance with WSD values of inclusiveness, diversity, reconciliation and respect for the human rights and human dignity of others.

Committee members were informed that all schools, parent councils, families, community members and organizations may submit recommendations and/or feedback to the Board of Trustees regarding schools named after individuals.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees recently reviewed and revised the renaming process to provide criteria and outline the process for renaming a school. The process may be initiated in response to a request from staff, students, parent councils, community members or a member of the Board of Trustees. All requests must be submitted to the Board in writing and include contact information and a rationale which includes a narrative explaining the basis for the request, the actions of the namesake that are not in accordance with WSD values as well as the sources and strength of evidence of the actions, the harm the continued use of the name may inflict on WSD and its community and any attachments to support the renaming request.

Committee members were informed that renaming request will be referred to the Building/Transportation Committee for review and consideration.

## **8. POLICY KMB – PARENT COUNCIL LUNCH PROGRAMS**

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held May 2, 2022, the Policy/Program Committee agreed to refer draft Policy KMB – Parent Council Lunch Programs to the District Advisory Committees to review with their respective parent councils and to provide feedback no later than January 31, 2022.

Committee members were informed that the policy was developed to provide guidance and support on the responsibilities and acceptable practices for Parent Councils providing lunch programs in schools. Committee members were informed that parent councils had requested support/guidance for the operation of their respective lunch programs as well as concerns regarding consistency for staffing, fees, salaries etc.

Committee members were encouraged to review the policy with their respective parent councils and to share their thoughts via email to the Board and Community Liaison Officer at [brlapointe@wsd1.org](mailto:brlapointe@wsd1.org) for review and consideration by the Board of Trustees. Parent Councils may also contact the Board and Community Liaison Officer directly for assistance.

Committee members suggested the draft Lunch Program Policy be added to the Education Equity Committee Agenda for discussion as equity contributes to the operation of lunch programs.

## **8. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS**

### SCHOOL REPORTS

Parent representatives from the following schools provided a written report on school activities: (attached):

- École Sir William Osler

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**9. DISTRICT ADVISORY REPORTS AND SUMMARIES OF DISCUSSION**

Committee members were informed that a meeting held March 7, 2022, the Board of Trustees received the Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussion as information. Committee members were informed that once reviewed by the Board, District Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

**In Attendance:**

**Voting Representatives:**

College Churchill High School  
École Secondaire Kelvin  
École Lansdowne  
École Laura Secord  
École Laverendrye  
École Luxton  
École River Heights  
École Riverview  
École Robert H. Smith  
École Sacre-Coeur  
École Sisler High School

**Regrets:**

École Garden Grove  
École George V  
École J.B. Mitchell  
École Sir William Osler  
École Stanley Knowles  
École Victoria Albert  
École Waterford Springs

**Administration:**

Rob Riel, Acting Superintendent Education Services  
Ryan Hughes, Acting Director  
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School  
Nancy Karpinsky, Principal, École Garden Grove  
Melanie Charbonneau, Vice-Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin  
Amanda Capina, Principal, École Laverendrye  
Joy Perrott, Principal, École Luxton  
Dominique Ostermann, Principal, École Sir William Osler  
Recording Secretary, Tarin Howard

**Non-Voting/Resource Members**

Employee Group Representative, W.A.N.T.E.

**Trustees:**

Jamie Dumont  
Ann Evangelista

**French Immersion Advisory Meeting May 4, 2021**  
**École Sir William Osler Report**

- Currently accepting registrations for N-6. All the information that is normally shared during the open house is up on our website along with an open house video and all the necessary registration information and forms <https://www.winnipegssd.ca/schools/sirwilliamosler/communityandfamily/spotlight-news-stories/pages/open-house-2021.aspx>
- FortWhyte Alive visiting our grade 1-6 classes. Our school received a wellness grant to support outdoor education. FortWhyte Alive is spending 3.5 days with our staff, students and daycare. Each class will be heading outdoors to learn about the nature that surrounds our playground and community, and outdoor education opportunities for students and teachers.
- Sir William Osler will be undergoing a planned renovation, school envelope, on the exterior of the building starting at the end of June.
- Enrolment continues to increase from 147 this school year to 170 for the 2021-2022 school year.
- We have 2 classrooms that have incorporated “Active Start” into their morning routines. Active Start allows students and staff to begin the first 15-35 minutes of their school day with movement! Teachers have noticed an increase in: focus and attention, mood levels, time on task, self esteem, engagement and a higher level of thinking. Not to mention, students love the chance to be active and get some extra socialization in before the day begins! For more information on “Active Start” please see the following link: <https://activestartpembinatrails.weebly.com/>