

**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2026**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 17, 2026

Your Ad Hoc Committee on Indigenous Education reports as follows:

1. Land Acknowledgement

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, 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 \$6 per month (or \$72 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 was informed that the Board of Trustees established several years ago to contribute and provide feedback a Student Advisory Committee during budget consultations. The Committee suggested that student councils should hold monthly meetings to gather feedback and report back to their student representative to bring information for discussion at the Student Advisory Committee meetings. The Committee was informed that WSD will continue to reach out to all students to provide feedback on Budget priorities and gather their perspectives for their school.

The Committee discussed the safety measures in schools and was informed that WSD acts quickly in serious situations and works with Winnipeg Police. The Committee was also informed that WSD is moving toward a SMS notification system to improve communications and reduce misinformation spread through social media. The Committee was informed that WSD follows police guidance.

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](mailto:board@wsd1.org) no later than Thursday, February 19.

### 3. Diversity Institute

Nancy Mitchell from the Diversity Institute (DI) of Toronto and Ashley Johnson from the Momentum Centre was in attendance to provide an overview of the role in supporting the Board of Trustees to conduct an equity review of programs and services being provided to families.

The Winnipeg School Division (WSD), with the DI and the Momentum Centre, are working on a project to understand the experiences of staff, students and families within the school system. The Committee was informed that the focus is on what is working well and what can be improved across:

- Student learning
- Supports like transportation, internet access, sports and arts, language needs, and more
- Experiences with conflict and bullying
- Staff and teacher diversity
- Family and guardian engagement with schools

The Committee was informed that DI and Momentum Centre aims to understand perspectives to provide WSD with recommendations for change.

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The Committee was informed that families on waitlists are being offered different types of supports and are a crucial and critical part of equity.

The Committee was informed that there are policies and procedures related to staff and students for Indigenous Education. DI is currently reviewing policies and procedures with the input from the Committee and will provide suggestions on what could be improved based on the insights and recommendations from the consultation sessions. The Committee was also informed that due to a high volume of input, DI is still in the preliminary stages of sorting the information.

The Committee was informed that DI has hosted multiple consultation sessions with families and staff separately to ensure their voices are heard. The Committee was also informed that providing training opportunities related to cultural competency and neurodivergent competency will give staff the confidence to teach these topics without taking away from the communities they represent.

The Committee was informed that DI engaged with various community members such as families, knowledge keepers, childcare and WSD partners. The Committee was informed that due to data privacy, DI cannot disclose who they have met with, but if the Committee has any suggestions to contact Nancy Mitchell.

The Committee was invited by DI and Momentum Centre to meet with them to provide their input by contacting Nancy Mitchell at [n.mitchell@torontomu.ca](mailto:n.mitchell@torontomu.ca).

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Chambers  
Committee Chair

In Attendance:

Trustees: R. Chambers (Chair), B. Edel, D. Aviso  
Administration: N. Batzel, C. Berthelette, R. Boulette, J. Donachuk, L. Dysart, D. Keith, M. Missyabit, R. Riel, M. Henderson, D. Vo (Administrative Support)  
Non-Voting: D. Anderson, F. Boulanger, E. Mayham  
Schools: Andrew Mynarski V.C School, Children of the Earth High School, Isaac Brock School, École Secondaire Kelvin High School, Lord Selkirk School, Niji Mahkwa School, R.B. Russell Vocational High School, Technical Vocational High School, William Whyte School