

INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO.1-2026

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

January 20, 2026

The Inner-City District Advisory Committee reports 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. Inner City District Advisory Committee Motion - Update

At a meeting held November 19, 2025, the Board of Trustees referred the following motion from the Inner City District Advisory Committee to the Governance Committee for review and consideration,

“That the Parent representatives of the Inner City District Advisory Committee be empowered to appoint a parent representative to Chair the Inner City District Advisory Committee meetings.”

The Committee was informed that the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees were developed based on supporting multiple Board Advisory Committees, and that feedback received last year that indicated that overall families preferred that a trustee be responsible for chairing meetings.

The Committee was informed that the recently approved Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees were revised to state that “the Trustee Representative shall Chair the Committee, the alternate Trustee Representative shall Chair the Committee in the absence of the Committee Chair.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees discussed the role of the Chair and the importance of families having the opportunity to speak and share information during meetings. Trustee representatives are responsible to ensure they are providing opportunities and encouraging families to provide input and feedback during meetings.

The Committee was informed that no revisions to the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees will be made at this time. The guidelines will be reviewed next school year to ensure that the governance component of meetings continue to be successful lines of communication for families. The Committee was informed that Trustees may provide opportunities for parents to volunteer as a co-chair, or to facilitate a discussion as deemed appropriate.

The parent representative from John M. King School volunteered to co-chair the meeting.

3. WSD 2026/2027 Budget Update

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is preparing the draft budget for the 2026/2027 school year.

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 for 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 to 1.067. The average house in WSD is valued at approximately \$269,900, this increase would result in the average homeowner in WSD paying an additional \$8 per month (or \$95 annually) in property tax.

The Committee was informed that a mill rate increase helps 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.

The Committee discussed the importance of providing support for students with inclusive needs and suggested providing opportunities for parent volunteers to receive training from clinicians so they may provide additional supports in schools.

The Committee was informed that WSD will be distributing a survey to all families to provide feedback to assist the Board of Trustees and WSD Administration in understanding where future funding should be focused to best meet the needs of school communities. 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. Families who would like 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.

4. Childcare, Nursery and Kindergarten

The Committee received an update on Childcare, Nursery and Kindergarten for information.

At the previous District Advisory Committee meetings, families were invited to complete a survey to identify barriers and opportunities related to childcare, nursery, and kindergarten. This information will assist WSD in understanding the community needs, strengthen partnerships, and guide planning for early learning spaces.

Feedback was received from 18 schools. Families indicated that key barriers include lack of available spaces, insufficient available hours of operation, affordability, long waitlists and unclear communication, infrastructure and regulatory barriers, program design and developmental gaps, operational instability and quality concerns, transportation challenges, equity and systemic impact.

Families suggested re-establishing and expanding school-based childcare, expanding full day kindergarten and nursery options, increasing wrap around and after school programming, strengthening partnerships and system coordination, increasing capacity through strategic funding, improving quality and developmental supports, providing clear communication and family engagement opportunities, supporting families with multiple children, providing more affordability and access and providing opportunities for community to contribute.

Families also suggested learning from existing models and pilot programs, improving transportation and accessibility, strengthening community partnerships and utilizing community spaces. The Board of Trustees will review the feedback as part of the 2026/2027 budget discussions.

5. 2026 New Ward Boundaries

The Committee received the new Ward Boundaries effective the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election for information.

At a meeting held September 15, 2025, the Board of Trustees approved a by-law to amend the existing ward boundaries. After a thorough review of possible revisions to the ward boundaries that would provide the best outcome to serve our families, the Board of Trustees approved new ward boundaries that provided an equitable distribution of trustee representation per school.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dante Aviso
Trustee Representative

In Attendance

Voting Representatives:

David Livingstone School
Gordon Bell High School
Hugh John Macdonald School
John M. King School
Sister MacNamara School
William Whyte School

Regrets:

Argyle Alternative High School
Children of the Earth High School
Dufferin School
Fort Rouge School
General Wolfe School
King Edward School
Machray School
Mulvey School
Niji Mahkwa School
Norquay School
Pinkham School
R.B. Russell High School
Strathcona School
Victoria - Albert School
Wellington School

Administration:

Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent
Mohammad Rezai, Assistant Superintendent
Garth McAlpine, Assistant Superintendent
Mercy Sacky, Principal, Sister MacNamara School
Christina Couture, Vice-Principal, Sister MacNamara School
Lindsay Young, Principal, William Whyte School
Anastasia Karagiannis Bell, Principal, John. M. King School
Chris Clarke, Principal, David Livingstone School
Claudia Martinez, Vice-Principal, David Livingstone School
Tarin Howard, Administrative Support

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Support Worker, Sister MacNamara School
Community Support Worker, John M. King School
Community Support Worker, David Livingstone School

Trustees:

Dante Aviso
Betty Edel
Rebecca Chambers (Regrets)