

INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO.3-2025

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

October 28, 2025

The Inner-City District Advisory Committee reports and recommends 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. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee requested that the agenda be revised to include discussions with Other Advisory Committees as an item. The Committee approved the revised agenda for October 28, 2025.

3. Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees

The Committee was informed that during the 2024/2025 school year, the Board of Trustees reviewed the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees to consider options to improve and encourage parental engagement and involvement. The Board held many consultations to receive feedback from families on the structure of the meetings and to identify areas of improvement to ensure meetings are accessible, include thought-provoking topics and how members participate and their role as a parent representative of their school community.

A draft of the Guidelines for the District Advisory Committee was distributed to families with proposed revisions to increase parental engagement and provide opportunities for families to share information and network with other schools.

Based on the feedback, the Board of Trustees agreed that additional feedback was required. A survey for families was created to identify some key priorities regarding the role and structure of District Advisory Committees to make meetings more inclusive for families and to foster meaningful engagement with the community. A total of 228 families provided feedback to the Board.

The Committee was informed that based on the feedback, it was determined that the majority of families who completed the survey preferred that a Trustee Chair the meetings, with formal agendas and In-person meetings, rotating school locations, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Families also requested that the District Advisory Committees structure of North, South, Inner City and Central remain as is.

The Committee was informed that additional feedback they can be submitted at any time to the Board by emailing the Board and Community Liaison Officer at board@wsd1.org.

The Committee discussed the role of the Trustee Chairing for the Inner City District Advisory Committee meetings. The Committee agreed by consensus to put forth a motion to the

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Board of Trustees to consider having a parent representative Chair the Inner City District Advisory meetings.

Recommendation:

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.

At a meeting held November 17, 2025, the Board of Trustees referred the above motion to the Governance and Public Relations for review.

4. WSD Budget Process Timelines

At a meeting held October 6, 2025, the Finance/Personnel Committee made recommendations to the Board of Trustees related to guidelines for preparation of the First Draft Budget. It has been the practice of the Finance/Personnel Committee to request that the First Draft Budget be prepared based on continuing all programs and services that are currently in place. The Committee received a copy of the timelines for the Budget Process for information.

The Committee was informed that during the 2024/2025 school year, the Board of Trustees heard from many families across WSD regarding the challenges of finding childcare that is convenient and affordable. Although Manitoba has made commitments to build and improve accessible childcare for families, there may be an opportunity for WSD to contribute to reducing waiting lists by strengthening access for families as well increasing the quality of early childhood space and creating barrier-free, inclusive, community-rooted programs for childcare, nursery and kindergarten programs and services.

The Committee members divided up into groups to discuss where there are current gaps or inequities in WSD, who is most affected, how they are most affected, what existing strengths or models could WSD build upon and what might be possible if early years spaces were reimaged or reorganized in WSD. The Committee shared that families within the catchment area for WSD schools should take priority for spaces in daycare and nursery programs. The Committee also agreed that it would be beneficial for childcare fees to be eliminated, as well as implementing childcare programs in schools that do not currently offer them, or by refurbishing existing properties near schools that do not currently offer childcare programs.

The Committee was also provided a Feedback Tool to share with their respective parent councils. The Committee was informed that WSD is seeking feedback from families and communities regarding barriers and opportunities related to childcare, nursery and kindergarten. Parent Councils will assist in understanding needs of the community, strengthening partnerships and planning for early learning spaces. It was recommended that the feedback tool be shared at Parent Council meetings for discussion and to submit to the Board and Community Liaison Office at board@wsd1.org as soon as possible to aid in the preparation of the 2026/2027 Draft Budget.

4. Attendance at Advisory Committees

The Committee discussed the possibility of attending other District Advisory Committee meetings as well as other Advisory Committee meetings (such as Indigenous Education,

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Education Equity, Inclusive Education and Newcomer Education Advisory Committees). The Committee was informed that all Advisory meetings are open to any WSD families that wish to attend, however, if the Committee chooses to make a motion, only representatives of that Committee will be able to participate in the consensus vote.

The Committee requested a link to the reports for other Advisory Committees be added to future agendas for information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dante Aviso
Trustee Representative

In Attendance

Voting Representatives:

Gordon Bell High School
Hugh John Macdonald School
Mulvey School
Strathcona School
William Whyte School

Regrets:

Argyle Alternative High School
Children of the Earth High School
David Livingstone School
Dufferin School
Fort Rouge School
General Wolfe School
John M. King School
King Edward School
Machray School
Niji Mahkwa School
Norquay School
Pinkham School
Sister MacNamara School
R.B. Russell High School
Victoria - Albert School
Wellington School
William Whyte School

Administration:

Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent
Mohammad Rezai, Assistant Superintendent
Garth McAlpine, Assistant Superintendent
Marsha Missyabit, Divisional Kookum
Camie Lawson, Principal, Dufferin School
Dan Shynkaryk, Vice-Principal, Dufferin School
Jennifer Scott, Principal, Hugh John MacDonald School
Russ Patterson, Principal, Fort Rouge School
Mercy Sacky, Principal, Sister MacNamara School
Sonia Medaglia Dos Santos, Principal, Pinkham School
Anastasia Karagiannis Bell, Principal, John. M. King School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Support Worker, Niji Mahkwa School
Community Support Worker, Strathcona School
Community Support Worker, R.B. Russell High School
Community Support Worker, Hugh John Macdonald School
Community Support Worker, Sister MacNamara School

Trustees:

Rebecca Chambers (Regrets)
Dante Aviso