

**THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION**  
**INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, February 6, 2025**

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**1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Committee members 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.

Committee members were informed that the students at Pinkham School have been developing their own land acknowledgements for each classroom. A student from Pinkham School was in attendance to read the land acknowledgement for Room 204 which stated, “We are/as students and staff at/of Pinkham School, which is on Treaty 1 territory, promise to keep this land safe and clean for the next generation. We are thankful for the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak and Dakota Oyate peoples and the homeland of the Red River Métis who found this land and made the land a new home for us. Their stories bring us together to pass on to our children. By building relationships with Mother Earth, we are thankful for our families, water, homes, food, animals and plants.”

**2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR**

The Parent representative from William Whyte volunteered to chair the Inner-City District Advisory Committee meeting.

**3. WSD 2025/2026 BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Committee members were informed that at the previous meeting, the Board of Trustees requested parents/guardians provide feedback on the following questions; If we had unlimited resources, what would you prioritize in the upcoming budget? What are your top 3 priorities for the budget given that resources are not unlimited? What initiatives or programs/supports should we enhance? Or what should we move away from?

The Board of Trustees received feedback from over 700 families. The common themes outlined in the feedback were increasing staffing, improved instruction, increasing afterschool programming and providing additional technology in schools.

Committee members were informed that WSD is committed to lowering class sizes and having more learning support teachers and Educational Assistants (EAs) for the classroom, as well as providing additional clinical support staff.

Committee members were also informed that in an effort to improve instruction, WSD is prioritizing early mathematics and literacy instruction. Staff will be provided additional learning days and WSD is developing a professional development fund for teachers.

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Committee members were informed that WSD will continue to support community partners such as Community Education Development Association (CEDA), Pathways, Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre (WASAC), Peaceful Village, and Boys and Girls Club of Canada. WSD is also looking at opportunities to extend the school day for Middle Years and Senior Years learners.

Committee members were informed that WSD is in the processes of increasing the number of tablets, Chromebooks and high-definition screens in classrooms. WSD is currently undergoing an upgrade to the network and increasing support to schools.

Committee members were informed that WSD is committed to reducing expenses for families by eliminating lunch supervision fees, supporting a universal nutrition program, covering school supplies and field trip transportation fees as well as upgrading aging school play structures so families do not have to fund raise. Committee members were informed that in the 2025/2026 school year, WSD will be upgrading 3 school play structures and installing 5 industrial kitchens.

WSD will also be investing in creative programming including a global issues pilot program at Gordon Bell and College Churchill high schools, developing additional International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, creating an inner-city STEAM lab at Hugh John Macdonald, a career lab at RB Russell and putting on a science fair and historical thinking symposium.

Committee members were informed that WSD leads the way in investing in student support and resources amongst Winnipeg metro school divisions.

Committee members were informed that school divisions are still waiting for the provincial funding announcement which will include a new funding model. It is anticipated the funding announcement will be made early next week.

Committee members were informed that WSD created a draft budget under the assumption that there would be a 0% increase in funding. Committee members were informed that the draft budget for the 2025/2026 school year is \$529,418,325 which is an increase of \$49,069,225 over the budget from the current school year. In order to achieve a balanced budget an increase of 4.1% of the current mill rate would be required, which would increase property tax for the average homeowner by approximately \$64 annually or \$5.35 a month.

Committee members suggested utilizing additional community volunteers to provide support for teachers.

Committee members were in favour of increasing property tax if necessary to ensure adequate funding for schools.

In response to an enquiry regarding food service wholesale companies, Committee members were informed that WSD has relationships with approximately 9 vendors, some of which are better equipped to provide the necessary items for larger schools. Committee members were informed that although it may be more cost effective for staff to purchase necessary items from companies such as Costco, the appropriate equipment is necessary to store food items properly and meet health code regulations. Committee members suggested creating a storage space or purchasing food storage trailers so that schools

would have central hubs to pull resources from. Committee members were informed WSD is exploring the option of providing central services equipped with the proper storage spaces.

Committee members were provided a QR code to a survey where they could provide additional feedback to the Board of Trustees regarding the draft budget. Committee members were invited to attend upcoming District Advisory Committee meetings to obtain updated information once the budget announcement is made by the provincial government. Committee members were also invited to attend the public forum at Tec Voc High school on Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. for additional budget information. Anyone wishing to appear as a delegation at the public forum at Tec Voc may register with the Board Office at 204-775-0231 or email [board@wsd1.org](mailto:board@wsd1.org).

#### **4. STRATEGIC PLAN**

At a previous meeting, Committee members were provided a timeline which outlined the development of the Strategic Plan. In November to March 2024, Trustees worked with consultants to develop a shared understanding of strategic planning process, which examined existing data, methodology and actions for data gathering. From April to June 2024 the Trustees launched multiple sessions and different processes to gather guidance and feedback from families, community organizations, staff and students. Over the summer from June to August, the data was analyzed by an external team of researchers and in meetings held early in the school year trustees shared data analysis the families, community organizations, staff and students to validate and correct any misunderstandings.

Committee members were informed that Trustees, Administration and consultants worked together to develop the WSD Strategic Plan 2025-2030 based on the data collected. Committee members were informed that there were three (3) main themes that came out of the data, Joy (creating a sense of community), Love (supporting a sense of belonging) and Rigour (preparing learners for excellence). Committee members were informed that WSD is committed to providing opportunities for learners to feel confident in the future, inspired, fulfilled, engaged and full of hope. WSD is committed to creating a sense of belonging where every learner is known by multiple adults and they feel safe, respected and free to express their true selves. WSD is also committed to preparing learners for excellence, where every learner feels supported and challenged to excel every day through meaningful activities and lessons to achieve their goals.

Committee members were informed that the Strategic Plan also outlines four (4) High-level strategies. The first strategy is to seek truth and reconciliation by answering the calls to action related to the cultivation of culture, community, language and land in WSD schools. WSD is committed to removing barriers for Indigenous people to lead WSD and contribute to the WSD community.

The second strategy is to build community schools that are barrier free. WSD is committed to eliminating barriers to education, including all exclusionary practices, creating sticky schools that extend the day and keep learners close and to nurture neighbourhood schools that support all learners.

The third strategy is the to develop a culture of thinking and shared sense of responsibility

for all children. WSD is committed to developing the capacity in school leaders to unleash the power of the classroom teacher and to cultivate the conditions for the highest quality teaching and deepest learning.

The final strategy is equitable distribution of resources. WSD is committed to distributing resources so that they have the maximum impact for the learners who need them most and to empower and support schools to shift resources for maximum impact.

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

### SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- Sister MacNamara School

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In Attendance:

**Voting Representatives:**

David Livingstone School  
Gordon Bell High School  
John M. King School  
Mulvey School  
Pinkham School  
Sister MacNamara School  
Strathcona School  
William Whyte School  
Clifton School (Central District)  
Lansdowne School (North District)

**Regrets:**

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

**Administration:**

Matthew Henderson, Superintendent  
Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent  
Clayton Bodkyn, Secretary-Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer  
Matt Adkins, Vice-Principal, John M. King School  
Kristin Melnyk, Principal, King Edward School  
Jaclyn Rivest, Vice-Principal, King Edward School  
Peter Correia, Principal, Mulvey School  
Colin Bruce-Smith, Principal, Norquay School  
Monique Russell, Vice-Principal, Norquay School  
Mercy Sackey, Principal, Pinkham School  
Sonia Medaglia Dos Santos, Vice-Principal, Sister MacNamara School  
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

**Non-Voting/Resource Members:**

Community Support Worker, Children of the Earth/King Edward School  
Community Support Worker, Pinkham School  
Community Support Worker, John M. King School  
Community Support Worker, Fort Rouge School  
Community Support Worker, Gordon Bell High School

**Trustees:**

Betty Edel  
Kathy Heppner  
Dante Aviso (Regrets)

smn

## SISTER MACNAMARA SCHOOL

460 SARGENT AVENUE  
WINNIPEG MANITOBA  
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DEBBIE LENHARDT MAIR  
PRINCIPAL

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SONIA MEDAGLIA DOS SANTOS  
VICE PRINCIPAL

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### Sister MacNamara Inner City Parent Advisory Meeting School Report November 2024- January 2025

#### November

- Family Gathering
- Family Activity Event- November 21, 2024

#### December

- Pictures with the Santa
- Family Gathering
- Pajama Project Distribution
- Patrol Pizza Lunch
- Grade 1-6 Winter Concert – 18th
- Nursery and Kindergarten Winter Concert- 19<sup>th</sup>
- Several activities and events offered in the Family Room
- Gingerbread House Decorating Family Event
- Movie Day/Holiday Party

#### January

- Family Gathering
- Mobile Vision Clinic

#### Upcoming Events:

##### February

- Family Gathering
- RWB Dance
- Family Activity Event- February 20th
- Jump Rope for Heart - February 28th
- Indoor Soccer at U of W

##### March

- Student led Conferences
- Spirit Week