

INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2023

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 15, 2023

The Inner City District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous People of Canada

The Committee was informed that the meeting of the Inner City Advisory Committee is taking place on Treaty One Land and the traditional home land of the Red River Métis.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The parent representative from William Whyte School volunteered to chair the meeting.

The Committee welcomed a representative of Community Helpers Unite to the meeting. The agenda for February 15, 2023, was approved by the Committee as distributed.

3. 2023/2024 Draft Budget

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees are currently in the process of obtaining feedback on the 2023/2024 budget. The Committee was informed that for 2023/2024, the Board of Trustees is proposing a budget that maintains existing programs and allows for a limited number of additional supports for students in the areas of bilingual language programs, transportation, increased student support services and educational assistants (EAs). The Committee was informed that as directed by the Province, revenue from property tax will remain frozen at the 2020 level.

The Committee was informed that on February 2, 2023, the Province announced the new funding formula for Manitoba schools, which included an increase of \$100 million dollars in provincial funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools. The additional funding represents an increase of approximately 4.1 percent in operating funding for Winnipeg School Division.

The Committee was informed that WSD provides programming outside of what is mandated by the Public Schools Act including staffing for intercultural and newcomer supports, library and computer technicians, adult crossing guards, off-campus programs, additional early years professional development, library support services and attendance officers. WSD also offers additional programming such as therapy services, summer school, nutrition programs, nursery as well as providing funding for students attending events outside of the Division. The Committee was informed that the increase in funding allows WSD to continue to offer the current programs and services with a remainder of approximately 1% of the entire budget to be allocated.

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The Committee discussed the need for additional educational assistants support. The Committee recommended providing additional funding for programs and services for students that do not qualify for provincial funding. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees sent a letter to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning prior to the budget announcement, requesting that additional funding and support be built into the budget to provide for Inclusive Education Supports and Services, however, no response has been received from the Province.

The Committee discussed reinstating the School Resource Officers (SROs) program in schools, specifically in inner city junior and high schools. The Committee shared concerns that since the return to in-person classroom learning there has been an increase in school incidents.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees has heard from parents and schools in favour of SROs as well as those who are opposed and recognizes more research and conversations with the community are necessary in determining whether or not to bring back SROs. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is committed to finding long-term sustainable solutions to school safety and looking at best practices currently being implemented in Canada and the United States.

The Committee was informed that a Special Board meeting will be held on February 27, 2023, 7:00 pm at 1577 Wall Street. Anyone wishing to provide additional feedback on the budget may register as a delegation. Budget feedback can also be submitted via email to Board@wsd1.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERLA JAVATE
Trustee Representative

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In Attendance:**Voting Representatives:**

Argyle Alternative High School
David Livingstone School
Fort Rouge School
General Wolfe School
John M. King School
King Edward School
Mulvey School
Norquay School
Sister MacNamara School
Strathcona School
William Whyte School

Regrets:

Children of the Earth High School
Dufferin School
Gordon Bell High School
Hugh John Macdonald School
Machray School
Niji Mahkwa School
Pinkham School
R.B. Russell High School
Victoria-Albert School
Wellington School

Administration:

Rob Riel, Acting Superintendent Education Services
Julie Smerchanski, Director
Christopher Clarke, Principal, David Livingstone School
Tammy Stevenson, Vice-Principal, David Livingstone School
Garth McAlpine, Principal, Dufferin School
Stacie Edgar, Principal, Fort Rouge School
Susan Darazsi, Principal, General Wolfe School
Mercy Sackey, Vice-Principal, Gordon Bell High School
Mathew Adkins, Principal, Hugh John Macdonald School
Anastasia Karagiannis Bell, Principal, John M. King School
Kristen Melnyk, Vice-Principal, John M. King School
Noami Ginsburg, Vice-Principal, Mulvey School
Ruben Boulette, Vice-Principal, Niji Mahkwa School
Cree Crowchild, Principal, Norquay School
Debbie Lenhardt Mair, Principal, Sister MacNamara School
Claudia Martinez, Vice-Principal, Sister MacNamara School
Jeremy Midford, Principal, Strathcona School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Support Worker, William Whyte School
Community Support Worker, Norquay School
Community Support Worker, Strathcona & King Edward School
Community Support Worker, Sister MacNamara School

Trustee:

Perla Javate
Dante Aviso
Kathy Heppner
Tamara Kuly
Betty Edel
Ann Evangelista