

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Committee members approved the agenda as distributed.

3. WSD 2024/2025 BUDGET CONSULTATION

At the previous meeting, Committee members were requested to consult with their school communities to identify priorities for consideration as part of the upcoming budget process.

At a meeting held January 15, 2024, the Board of Trustees received the feedback for review. The feedback from parents/guardians included; smaller class sizes, improved classroom instruction, greater academic engagement, increase attendance and graduation rates, improve maths and literacy achievement, additional learning support for teachers in school, provide universal nutrition program, phase-in no-fee lunch supervision, replace three school playgrounds annually, build powerful neighbourhood schools, enhance school safety, improve settlement services for newcomers and expand adult EAL to the Shaughnessy Park area and develop the R.B. Russell career lab.

On February 1, 2024, the provincial government announced funding for education in the amount of \$104.2 million. WSD received an increase of 1% (\$2.6 million) over last year's budget. Committee members were informed that the 1% increase in funding does not cover the costs related to inflation and operations maintaining staffing, programs and services. The government also invested \$30 million to expand the nutrition program and \$3 million to assist school divisions in reducing class size. The Division currently spends \$5 million on the nutrition program. Committee members were informed that a 3.4% increase which equates to approximately \$51 per average household (2024 average home value in WSD \$246,700) would allow WSD to maintain current programs, services and provide for fully funded nutrition and food programs as well as provide \$2.6 million to be allocated to budget priorities outlined by the school community. An education tax increase of 3% would allow for a budget that maintains current programs and services as well as a fully funded nutrition program, but would reduce allocations towards budget priorities brought forward by school communities.

Committee members were informed that the priorities were identified by the Board of Trustees based on feedback from parents/guardians. The priorities were placed into three categories; Improve student success, create "sticky" schools and community supports.

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Committee members held round table discussions to identify priorities under the three categories. Overall, Committee members were in favour of smaller class sizes, however there were also concerns regarding resources and space available for the creation of additional classes. Committee members stressed the importance of increasing attendance and graduation rates especially in the Indigenous community. Committee members also suggested that field trips and classroom activities could assist in providing motivation and engage students to attend school. Committee members agreed that programs such as music and art are important motivation for students, as well as after school programs and sports. Committee members agreed that once students are coming to school for the “fun” programs and interactions, they will stay for the educational programs as well. Committee members were in favour of additional professional development for all staff to improve connection with students.

Committee members expressed support for a universal lunch program that would keep students in school and hopefully improve attendance for afternoon classes. Committee members also suggested improvements to nutrition programs such as inviting community members to share different cultural culinary expertise. Committee members also felt it was important to provide lunch options that cater to different cultures and religions. Committee members expressed support for improved transportation and school safety.

Committee members also made other suggestions such as open gym, continuing school day, continuing/expanding the grade 4 swimming program, bursaries for Inner City students, School Resource Officers (SROs), Artists in school, early speech and language intervention (grade 3), school safety plans, expansion of nutrition programs, mental health supports and resources for staff, students and families, school community hub, music and dance for elementary students, land based learning programs, before and after care, and divisional bulk ordering to save on food costs.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees is hosting a budget consultation meeting open to the public on February 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Tec Voc High School. Input on the draft budget can be submitted by email to board@wsd1.org or by registering at 204-755-0231 no later than February 22nd to appear as a delegation at the February 26th meeting. Committee members were informed the Board of Trustees will be submitting the budget to the province by March 15, 2024.

4. WSD 123 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Committee members received a copy of the WSD 123 Continuous Improvement report for review and information. The Committee was informed that the report provides an overview on WSD programs and services during the 2023/2024 school year. As part of the educational mandate in Manitoba, WSD addresses high levels of academic achievement in literacy and numeracy through planning with the Kindergarten to Grade 12 Framework for Continuous Improvement. These divisional plans outline clear outcomes, comprehensive monitoring processes, baseline data, and measurable targets for all students across diverse languages of instruction. The plan also includes strategic utilization of grants, the emphasis on enhancing instructional leadership, and the essential role of stakeholder involvement in developing school division plans.

Committee members were encouraged to share the report with their respective parent

councils.

5. LUNCH PROGRAM PILOT

At a previous meeting Committee members were informed WSD has launched the lunch program pilot to address the financial strain on families by eliminating fees for lunch supervision in five elementary schools; École Sacré-Coeur, Shaughnessy Park School, Carpathia School, Isaac Brock School and École LaVérendrye. Committee members were informed that, three schools have begun the pilot. Committee members were informed that WSD has extended the hours for educational assistants to supervise the lunch hour, as well as hiring people who were previously employed by their Parent Councils, where appropriate.

Committee members were informed that the cost to implement the program Division-wide would be approximately \$5 million. The Division resources for the pilot is limited to \$2.6 million. It is anticipated the program will be phased in gradually, starting with schools that already have the infrastructure to implement the new program.

Committee members were informed the lunch program pilot will be reassessed in May to determine the possibility of expanding the program for the next school year.

6. STAGGERED START TIMES

On January 17, 2024, Committee members were informed that many WSD high schools will be implementing either a late start or early dismissal each week beginning in February.

Committee members were informed that one day per week, (mainly Wednesdays), classes will either begin an hour later or end an hour earlier. The purpose of the amended class schedules is to eliminate barriers for approximately 2,500 students who are struggling to get to school for a variety of reasons while also providing staff with time to come together, determine who they are missing, make phone calls, organize home visits and to strategize about how to make schools rich, deep and welcoming.

Committee members were informed that to accommodate for the loss of an hour per week, June exams will be pushed back to add additional instructional days to the calendar, so students will receive the same amount, if not more, instructional time.

Committee members were informed that seven schools have already implemented the amended schedules. Administration will assess the success of the amended schedules to determine if it will be implemented on a division-wide basis.

7. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- Pinkham School
- Sister MacNamara School

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives:

David Livingstone School
Machray School
Mulvey School
Pinkham School
R.B. Russell High 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
Gordon Bell High School
Hugh John Macdonald School
John M. King School
King Edward School
Niji Mahkwa School
Norquay School
Strathcona School
Victoria-Albert School
Wellington School

Administration:

Matthew Henderson, Superintendent
Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent
Mohammad Rezai, Assistant Superintendent
Jenifer Donachuk, Principal, Children of the Earth School
Claudia Martinez, Vice-Principal, David Livingstone School
Susan Darazsi, Principal, General Wolfe School
Ruben Boulette, Principal, Niji Mahkwa School
Colin Bruce Smith, Principal, Norquay School
Monique Russell, Vice-Principal, Norquay School
Mercy Sackey, Principal, Pinkham School
Paul Krowiak, Principal, R.B. Russell High School
Debbie Lenhardt Mair, Principal, Sister MacNamara
Jeremy Milford, Principal, Strathcona School
Emil Conteras, Principal, Wellington School
Kari Bermuller, Vice-Principal, Wellington School
Daniel Keith, Principal, William Whyte School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Support Worker, Pinkham School
Community Support Worker, Norquay School
Community Support Worker, General Wolfe School
Community Support Worker, Niji Mahkwa School
Community Support Worker, Sister MacNamara School
Community Support Worker, Children of the Earth School
Community Support Worker, Strathcona/King Edward School
Community Support Worker, David Livingstone School
Community Support Worker, R.B. Russell High School
Community Support Worker, John M. King School
Community Support Worker, William Whyte School

Trustees:

Dante Aviso
Tamara Kuly
Betty Edel
Lois Brothers
Kathy Heppner
Ann Evangelista

Inner City District Advisory Committee Round Table Discussions

Table 1

- Support smaller classrooms, need more teachers
 - Pilot project? How will you determine which schools will have smaller classrooms?
Physical spaces?
- Need more EA's
- Utilize volunteer support
- Fun Fieldtrips and parties
- Bursaries for Inner City students for improved behaviour
- Bring back SRO's
- Get a Costco Gold membership and take families to shop

Table 2

- More Professional Development for any staff that work with students
- Build connection and relationship with students
- Involve Community
- Bring Artist into schools
- Provide extra-curricular programs students want
- More before and after school programs – come for sports, stay for education
- Make students feel more at home in school
- Invite parents and newcomers to share stories and be involved in the schools
- Early intervention for diagnosis by grade 3 – indicators that can affect graduation rates
- Support for speech and language programs
- Support smaller class sizes

Table 3

- Support Nutrition program – universal lunch program
- Better Transportation
- Improved attendance with lunch program and kids staying at school
- Support increasing hours for EA's
- Staff and Student relationships are important
- Providing foods from different cultures and religions
- Support smaller classroom
 - Concerns about losing resources such as sensory rooms, language rooms and overwhelming staff
- Support 3.4% property tax increase

Table 4

- Expand school safety plans
- Bring back SRO's
- Expansion of Nutrition program
- Support 3.4% property tax increase

- RB Russell Career Lab should train food coordinators
- Increase mental health supports and resources for staff, students and families
- Increase Indigenous ways of learning and education
- Making the schools a community hub, safe place, doors open for community programs
- Music and dance for elementary students
- Land based learning programs

Table 5

- More advanced programming for exceptional students
- More before and after care
- Support lunch programs
- Support for upgrading and adding playgrounds

Table 6

- Increase afterschool programming, open gym, continuing school day and provide safe environment
- Continue and expand grade 4 swim program

Table 7

- Support lunch program
- More teachers to teach unique and diverse learners
- More support teachers

Table 8

- More community hiring
- More parent involvement
- Gated schools – provide more safety for students and children in the neighborhood
- More family programs in the evening – making meals
- Support the no fee lunch program
- Divisional bulk food orders to save on food costs
- Respecting cultures with foods served
- Investing in a school van to help transport families



PINKHAM SCHOOL

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Date: February 07, 2023

Mercy Sackey
Principal
Email: msackey@wsd1.org

Pinkham School is a Nursery – Grade 6 school. We support many exciting academic and extracurricular programs for our students.

Pinkham January Highlights:

1. Monthly Assembly - C.A.R.E Awards:

Every month, all the faculty, staff, and students gather in the gym for the Assembly. Since Pinkham's core values are C.A.R.E. (C. Come prepared to learn, A. demonstrate active listening, R. Ready to Participate and Inquire, and E. Everybody belongs), students are encouraged to demonstrate CARE in all they do. Teachers select students to be recognized and awarded each month for showing C.A.R.E. Students with 95% attendance are also recognized and encouraged.

All students from all grade levels had the opportunity to participate in activities during lunch hour and after school. The following are a few highlights.

2. Football League

Every Thursday, our students stay after school for three hours to practice for Football. Our Phys .Ed teacher supervises the students along with the help of other teachers who are willing to take turns to help with supervision.

3. Quantum Arts program

Our school has been selected to participate in the Winter Session of the Quantum Arts program at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. This program is a fantastic opportunity for students to participate in artistic learning and expression.

4. Can U program

Some of our students visit the University of Manitoba every Wednesday after school to talk with mentors about career choices and get new experiences.

8. Little Red Spirit Program

Our Community Support Worker runs this program every Thursday, where students learn about the Indigenous culture and language. Also, the members share their knowledge and experience with the students.

5. Swimming Counts

On Tuesdays, grade 4 students have an opportunity to engage in swimming sessions. They look forward to these days.

6. Intramurals

Students at Pinkham School are able to take part in the intramurals held inside the school. Tuesdays are for Grades 1 and 2, Wednesdays are for Grades 3 and 4, and Thursdays are for Grades 5 and 6, during which students remain in school for lunch.

7. Performing Arts Club

Every Tuesday, interested students engage in various activities like acting, dancing, and singing at the performing arts club for the lunch hour.

8. Chess Club

Students learn how to play chess in a School Chess Club every Wednesday. Some students take the lead in the group and manage the entire club with the help of the teachers.

Pinkham Family Room

- Weekly food security of potatoes, onions, and bread is available on Thursday mornings at 8:40 outside the gym doors.
- Every student receives meals to take home every Friday. N/K a.m. students on Monday mornings. Bags are filled with food items such as fruit, yogurt and cereal.
- Celebrating Grandparents – The Grandparents group is a fun, casual afternoon of telling stories and enjoying lunch together. They are making smudge bowls.
- Parent Council Meeting is a vibrant place for parents to connect with other Parents/Guardians and get information about the school. It is great to see the number; our last Parent Council meeting was approximately 40 people, including children. The next parent council is on Wednesday, February 28, at 5 p.m. These meetings are great ways.



Pinkham School Parent Council:

765 Pacific Ave, Winnipeg, MB, R3E 1G1

Phone: 204-786-5749

| Fax: 204-783-0597 | Email: pinkham@wsd1.org

SISTER MACNAMARA SCHOOL

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DEBBIE LENHARDT MAIR
PRINCIPAL

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SONIA MEDAGLIA DOS SANTOS
VICE PRINCIPAL

February 7, 2024

Sister MacNamara Inner City Parent Advisory Meeting School Report

- OurSchool Student Survey for Grades 4-6- November 20th-December 15th
- Pictures with the Santa
- Patrol Pizza Lunch
- Grade 1-6 Winter Concert – 19th
- Nursery and Kindergarten Winter Concert- 20th
- Several activities and events offered in the Family Room.
- Smile Plus Dental Screening - January 30th for Grades, 1, 3, and 5
- Mobile Vision Clinic- February 6, 2024

Upcoming Events:

February

- Jump Rope for Heart- February 29, 2024
- RWB Sharing Dance with students
- Manitoba Opera providing class workshops

March

- School Photos- March 5th, 2024