

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2023

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 14, 2023

The North District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples of Canada

The Committee was informed that the meeting of the North District Advisory Committee meeting is taking place on Treaty One land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Métis.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda for February 14, 2023, as distributed.

In response to an enquiry, The Committee was informed that the class size at Luxton School was addressed by administration and that the Board Office will be compiling the lunch program feedback for review by the Board of Trustees.

3. 2023/2024 Draft Budget

The Committee received a copy of the 2023/2024 Draft Budget for review.

The Committee was informed that provincial funding has increased in the amount of \$8,314,777 or 4.1%. The Committee was also informed that the Division is recommending a draft budget in the amount of \$454,832,200. The Committee was informed that 51.7% of expenditures are directed towards: regular instruction; 24.2% - student support services; 2.0% - community education and services, including adult learning centres; 2.4% - instructional and other support services; 2.6% - administration; 1.7% - student transportation; 13.2% - operations and maintenance and 2.2% - fiscal and capital appropriations.

The Board of Trustees is recommending a budget that maintains programs and allows for additional supports for students in bilingual language programs, transportation, student support services and educational assistants. The Committee was also informed that the Province of Manitoba established a consultant team to guide the development of a new education funding model which was to be implemented for the 2023/2024 school year. The Province announced that the new funding model required more consultation and will not be implemented for the 2023/2024 school year. The Committee was informed funding is based on student enrollment. The Committee was informed that the provincial government will be meeting with all school divisions in the future to discuss the new funding model in preparation of next year.

A parent representative suggested engaging with provincial politicians to advocate for additional funding for education. The Committee expressed concerns that the new funding model will exclude the portion of revenue from property taxes.

A parent representative suggested that parents may wish to donate to the Children's Heritage Fund. The Committee was informed that donations can be made directly on WSD website and that a website link for the Children's Heritage Fund will be provided on the summary and report for anyone who is interested in making a donation.

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A parent representative suggested that the Lunch Program policy should be a guideline rather than a policy as all schools are not the same and not equal. The Committee was informed feedback will be compiled for review by the Board of Trustees.

A parent representative suggested that children who have high needs require one-on-one assistance during lunch program. The Committee suggested that lunch program staff should be paid a little over minimum wage. The Committee agreed that they need support from WSD financially with lunch program and lunch program staffing. Parent representatives recommended that schools should be offering the lunch program instead of parent councils.

A parent representative suggested that transportation services should be provided for children who are beyond Grade 6. Committees discussed the need for transportation services for students with varying levels of needs.

In response to an enquiry regarding portable classrooms The Committee was informed that the administration submits a five-year capital plan to the Province which requests new school portables, additional renovations, etc. for funding approval.

In response to an enquiry regarding teacher recruitment to accommodate increase in refugee students, The Committee was informed that the 2023/2024 budget is based on student enrollment from the previous year and that additional government funding is available. A parent representative raised concerns regarding not having enough Educational Assistants (EAs) in schools to support the increase of refugees. The Committee also discussed that schools are not giving enough hours to lunch program staff. The Committee was informed that additional funding has been allocated to assist with hiring staff. A parent representative shared that some schools are assisting Human Resources with the hiring process for EAs. The Committee was informed that Human Resources is also working to support newcomers who may be interested in becoming an EA.

A parent representative also suggested a survey be distributed in schools to ask parents for their opinion about School Resource Officers (SROs) and the safety of their children. A parent representative raised concerns about the relationship between communities and SROs. The Committee discussed building positive connections between communities and SROs, as well as recovery and supports for families who are struggling due to poverty, mental health, basic needs (food and shelter).

A parent representative suggested implementing resources such as guidance counsellors, community support workers and a funded food program. The Committee discussed mental health and academic supports due to COVID recovery.

The Committee also discussed the safety of students and recommended that SRO program be added to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Evangelista
Trustee Representative

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Andrew Mynarski School
École Lansdowne
Faraday School
Garden Grove School
Lord Nelson School
Luxton School
Ralph Brown School
Shaughnessy Park School
Sisler High School
St. John's High School
Tyndall Park School
Waterford Springs School

Administration

Rob Riel, (Acting) Superintendent
Tony Marchione, (Acting) Director
Paulo Teixeira, Principal, Champlain School
Gisele Mospanchuk, Principal, Tyndall Park School
Ryan Erichsen, (Acting) Vice-Principal, Tyndall Park School
Pat Graham, Principal, Sisler High School
Amanda Mannes, Vice-Principal, Waterford Springs School
Alison Petrelli, Vice-Principal, Robertson School
Trevor MacVicar, (Acting) Principal, Ralph Brown School
Jude Guzzi, Principal, Robertson School
Ashley Morrison, Vice-Principal, École Lansdowne
Joy Perrott, Principal, Luxton School
Steven Nikkel, Vice-Principal, Shaughnessy Park School
Michelle Lejano, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Champlain School
École Stanley Knowles School
Inkster School
Isaac Newton School
Meadows West School
Prairie Rose School
Robertson School
Stanley Knowles School

Trustees

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