

**NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2024**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 12, 2024

The North District Advisory Committee reports 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. Election of the Committee Chair

The Committee was informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees held on September 16, 2024, Trustee Tamara Kuly was appointed as the Board's representative, and Trustee Ann Evangelista was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from St. John's High School volunteered to Chair the meeting. The parent representative from Lansdowne School volunteered to Chair the following meeting.

3. Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees approved a motion to revise the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees. The revisions include transitioning to an Elementary, Middle Years and Senior Years meeting structure, Division-wide membership, appointment of a Trustee to serve as chair, removing quorum requirements, and moving from voting to a consensus-based decision-making process.

The Committee shared concerns regarding transportation to meetings and suggested implementing hybrid meetings to allow members to attend virtually as well as in person.

The Committee received a copy of the revised Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees for review and to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees via [board@wsd1.org](mailto:board@wsd1.org) no later than December 20, 2024. The Committee was informed that if members require clarification on the Guidelines, they may contact Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer at [brlapointe@wsd1.org](mailto:brlapointe@wsd1.org).

4. 2025/2026 Budget Consultation

The Committee was informed that the Province of Manitoba has confirmed that a new funding model will be provided to school divisions in the development of the 2025/2026 budget. The new formula will not be available to school boards until the funding announcement has been made.

The Committee requested additional information on the programs/services currently offered by WSD to make more informed recommendations. The Committee was informed additional information will be provide to schools and through social media.

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The Committee was also informed that although enrollment for the current school year has increased, the budget is set the year prior for the current school year there may be a deficit when it comes to funding, however, the new funding model is still unknown, so it may be different this year.

The Committee was informed that any concerns regarding the loss of funding for programs should be brought to the attention of administration or the Superintendent's office for verification.

In preparation of the budget announcement, the Board is inviting families to provide feedback to the Board no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on the following questions: If we had unlimited resources, what would you prioritize in the upcoming budget? What are your top three priorities for the upcoming budget given that resources are not unlimited? What initiatives or programs/supports should we enhance? Or what should we move away from?

### 5. Strategic Plan Verification of Data

The Committee was informed that during the 2023/2024 school year, numerous meetings were held to gather feedback from the WSD community to assist in the development of the Strategic Plan. The feedback received will play a vital role in helping to identify key priorities, set goals and develop strategies that will guide WSD efforts to enhance education opportunities and improve student outcomes and promote equity and inclusivity across WSD.

Over the summer months, the feedback was collected and collated by the Critical Thinking Consortium for presentation to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting for their review and consideration.

Prior to presenting the report, it was agreed that as part of the second phase of the development of the Strategic Plan, the information would be shared with those individuals who were interested in providing input on how their feedback was captured and reflected in the findings.

The Committee was informed that three broad themes came through the feedback that was gathered, community, belonging and excellence. The feedback indicated that families would like to see a greater sense of community in classrooms and across the Division with better communication between families, Parent Councils, teachers and administration. A better sense of belonging was another theme evident throughout the feedback, providing school environments where students are known by multiple adults, and where cultural and linguistic differences are represented in staff throughout the school. The third theme was excellence. The feedback indicated the desire for improvement in the quality of education for students, and a focus on the details of education, building confidence in learners and decolonizing programs and systems.

The Committee was asked to contact [brlapointe@wsd1.org](mailto:brlapointe@wsd1.org) no later than December 20, 2024, if the data does not reflect/capture the feedback provided. The Committee was also reminded that the purpose is to ensure accurate information was collected, not to provide new or additional feedback.

### 6. Ward Boundaries

The Committee was informed that at a meeting held October 16, 2023, the members of the Board adopted a motion to establish a Ward Boundaries Review Committee to review the results of the 2022 election to ensure the boundaries met the requirements outlined in the Public Schools Act. The Public Schools Act states that each trustee of a school division divided into wards shall represent, in so far as it is practicable, approximately the same number of electors. The number of electors per

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trustee is determined by dividing the total number of resident electors in the Division by the total number of trustees.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is in the process of reviewing the 2020 election results and boundaries to determine the need and identify options for consideration of redrawing the boundaries with the least impact to meet legislation requirements.

7. Fundraising in Schools

The Committee was also informed that the members of the Board will be reviewing Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools in the near future.

The Committee was informed that in accordance with Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools, the Division recognizes that schools may wish to supplement their school budgets in support of student activities and charitable causes. However, it is important that fundraising does not occur for materials already funded by the provincial government.

The Committee was informed that studies have shown that fundraising can lead to inequity in school divisions creating the “have” and “have-not” schools. The Committee was also informed that schools should avoid fundraising for things such as equipment, field trips, or items that should be covered under public education funding, as it can result in the government reducing funding.

The Committee was informed that fundraising can continue, but to be mindful of what the funds are being used for and to meet with school administration to discuss alternate funding options prior to launching a fundraiser.

The Committee was informed that a primary role of Trustees is to advocate for funding. The Committee was encouraged contact any of the nine Trustees with funding requests so they may advocate at the government level for additional funding.

The Committee was informed that the goal of the fundraising policy is to ensure that all families and students are able to participate in all activities and events.

The Committee was also informed that any fundraising that is completed needs to be documented in the minutes of the PAC and must include the purpose of the fundraiser as well as the amount of funds raised.

The Committee suggested that Parent Councils may require additional purpose or direction if they are no longer responsible for lunch programs or fundraisers. The Committee suggested a meeting for Parent Councils to share ideas on what a utopian parent council might look like, as well as to discuss the role of the Trustee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tamara Kuly  
Trustee Representative

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Attendance:

**Voting Representatives**

Inkster Newton School  
Lansdowne School  
Lord Nelson School  
Robertson School  
St. John's High School  
Stanley Knowles School  
Tyndall Park Community School

**Regrets**

Andrew Mynarski V.C. School  
Champlain School  
Faraday School  
Garden Grove School  
Isaac Newton School  
Luxton School  
Meadows West School  
Prairie Rose School  
Ralph Brown School  
Shaughnessy Park School  
Sisler High School  
Waterford Springs School

**Administration**

Matt Henderson, Superintendent/CEO  
Clayton Bodkyn, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO  
Celia Caetano-Gomes, Assistant Superintendent  
Julie Smerchanski, Assistant Superintendent  
Jessica Mayor-Rodrigues, Principal, Lansdowne School  
Faria Sheikh, Vice-Principal, Lansdowne School  
Melissa Asmundson, Principal, Lord Nelson School  
Amada Huang, Vice-Principal, Lord Nelson School  
Marla Manzano, Principal, Prairie Rose School  
Trevor MacVicar, Principal, Ralph Brown School  
Monica Sim, Vice-Principal, Ralph Brown School  
Jude Guzzi, Principal, Robertson School  
Brad Davidson, Principal, St. John's High School  
Andrea Powell, Principal, Stanley Knowles School  
Gisele Mospanchuk, Principal, Tyndall Park Community School  
Ryan Erichsen, Vice-Principal, Tyndall Park Community School  
Warren Nickerson, Principal, Luxton School  
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

**Trustees**

Tamara Kuly  
Ann Evangelista