

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2025

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board

November 4, 2025

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. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee requested that the agenda be revised to include updates on Ward Boundaries, Staggered Start Times and After School Programs. The Committee approved the revised agenda for November 4, 2025.

3. Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees

The Committee was informed that during the 2024/2025 school year, the Board of Trustees reviewed the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees to consider options to improve and encourage parental engagement and involvement. The Board held many consultations to receive feedback from families on the structure of the meetings and to identify areas of improvement to ensure meetings are accessible and include thought-provoking topics and how members participate and their role as a parent representative of their school community.

Based on the feedback, the Board of Trustees agreed that additional feedback was required. A survey for families was created to identify some key priorities regarding the role and structure of District Advisory Committees to make meetings more inclusive for families and to foster meaningful engagement with the community. A total of 228 families provided feedback to the Board.

The Committee was informed that the majority of families who completed the survey preferred that a Trustee Chair the meetings, with formal agendas and In-person meetings, rotating school locations, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Families also requested that the District Advisory Committees structure of North, South, Inner City and Central remain as is.

The Committee was informed that Trustees are trained in the procedures for chairing meetings and facilitating decisions by consensus. The Committee was also informed that Trustees have participated in robust discussions regarding agenda topics prior to Advisory meetings and have a deeper understanding of the agenda material.

The Committee was informed that additional feedback can be submitted at any time to the Board by emailing the Board and Community Liaison Officer at board@wsd1.org.

4. WSD Budget Process Timelines

At a meeting held October 6, 2025, the Finance/Personnel Committee discussed the guidelines for preparation of the First Draft Budget. It has been the practice of the Finance/Personnel Committee to request that the First Draft Budget be prepared based on continuing all programs and services that are currently in place. The Committee also discussed the timelines for the Budget Process for information.

The Committee was informed that during the 2024/2025 school year, the Board of Trustees heard from many families across WSD regarding the challenges of finding childcare that is convenient and affordable. Although Manitoba has made commitments to build and improve accessible childcare for families, there may be an opportunity for WSD to contribute to reducing waiting lists by strengthening access for families as well increasing the quality of early childhood space and creating barrier-free, inclusive, community-rooted programs for childcare, nursery and kindergarten programs and services.

The Committee held round table discussions on where there are current gaps or inequities in WSD, who is most affected, how they are most affected, what existing strengths or models WSD can build upon and what might be possible if early years spaces were reimaged or reorganized in WSD.

The Committee indicated that families require flexibility to meet their specific family needs as well as physical space to provide before and after school programs that does not disrupt classroom spaces. The Committee discussed the importance of expanding the number of spaces available for programs to allow more families access and reduce waitlists. The Committee also discussed the importance of before and after-school care facilities communicating and collaborating with schools regarding specific needs of students as well as transporting students between daycare facilities and schools. The Committee suggested creating a hub to provide before and after school care programs. The Committee also suggested a collaboration between WSD and Winnipeg Transit to make transportation for students more affordable or to provide free transportation for students during school hours. The Committee recommended that it would be helpful to review how other major cities are reducing transportation barriers for their families.

The Committee also received a Feedback Tool to share with their respective parent councils. The Committee was informed that WSD is seeking feedback from families and communities regarding barriers and opportunities related to childcare, nursery and kindergarten. Parent Councils will assist in understanding needs of the community, strengthening partnerships and planning for early learning spaces. It was recommended that the feedback tool be shared at Parent Council meetings for discussion and to submit to the Board and Community Liaison Office at board@wsd1.org as soon as possible to aid in the preparation of the 2026/2027 Draft Budget.

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5. Ward Boundaries Update

The Committee was informed that a request to approve the new Ward Boundaries for the 2026 election was sent to the province. WSD established a Ward Boundaries Committee to review the equity of the current boundaries and determine new boundaries to ensure equitable representation of all communities within WSD. Rebalancing the wards helps to maintain fair and effective representation on the Board of Trustees and supports more responsive governance and decision-making that reflects the needs of all families.

The new boundaries were based on even distribution of total population per ward (based on 2021 Census data), voter counts within the 25% variance limit set out in the Public Schools Act, balanced student population in each ward, logical grouping of schools (with 7-11 elementary schools and 1-2 high schools per ward), and representation of 1 to 4 City Councilors per WSD ward.

In June 2025, families were invited to participate in a survey to determine support for the new ward boundaries. The Committee felt that there was not sufficient information on the ward boundaries to provide feedback to the Board.

The Committee was informed that additional information regarding the new ward boundaries will be provided at a future meeting.

6. Staggered Start Times

At a meeting held February 8, 2024, the Committee was informed that WSD would be implementing either a late start or early dismissal each week for high school students. On one day per week, predominantly Wednesdays, classes either begin an hour later or end an hour earlier. The Committee was informed that the aim of these adjusted class schedules is to remove barriers for approximately 2,500 students who face challenges in attending school while also allowing staff time to address attendance issues and strategize ways to enhance school environments.

The Committee was also informed that to compensate for the loss of instructional time due to the altered schedules, June exams would be postponed. This adjustment will enable additional instructional days to be added to the calendar, ensuring that students receive at least the same amount, if not more, instructional time overall. The Committee was informed that the decision reflects WSD's commitment to prioritizing student well-being and addressing attendance challenges while maintaining the integrity of the academic calendar and ensuring educational quality. The Committee was informed that recent reports from Principals and Administration suggests that the program has been well received and is demonstrating positive results.

The Committee was informed that additional information will be provided at a future meeting.

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7. After School Programs

At a meeting held February 12, 2025, the Committee was informed that 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.

The Committee was informed that currently a formal report was not available, however, feedback from programs that have received enhanced before and afterschool programming has been very positive.

The Committee was informed additional information will be provided at a future meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Evangelista
Trustee Representative

Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Faraday School
Garden Grove School
Lansdowne School
Lord Nelson School
Ralph Brown School
Shaughnessy Park School
Sisler High School
Tyndall Park Community School

Regrets

Andrew Mynarski V.C. School
Champlain School
Inkster Newton School
Isaac Newton School
Luxton School
Meadows West School
Prairie Rose School
Robertson School
St. John's High School
Stanley Knowles School
Waterford Springs School

Administration

Cheryl Chukry, Assistant Superintendent
Paulo Teixeira, Principal, Champlain School
Jessica Mayor-Rodrigues, Principal, Lansdowne School
Faria Sheikh, Vice-Principal, Lansdowne School
Maria Manzano, Principal, Prairie Rose School
Trevor MacVicar, Principal, Ralph Brown School
Brad Davidson, Principal, St. John's High School
Pat Graham, Principal, Sisler High School
Ryan Erichsen, Principal, Tyndall Park School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Trustees

Ann Evangelista
Betty Edel (regrets)

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Support Worker, Champlain School
Community Support Worker, Shaughnessy Park School