

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 14, 2023

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA

Committee members were informed that the meeting of the North District Advisory Committee is taking place on Treaty One Land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Métis.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were 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

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

Committee members were informed that provincial funding has increased in the amount of \$8,314,777 or 4.1%. Committee members were also informed that the Division is recommending a draft budget in the amount of \$454,832,200. Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed funding is based on student enrollment. Committee members were 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. Committee members 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. Committee members were 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.

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. Committee members were informed feedback will be compiled for review by the Board of Trustees.

NORTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 14, 2023

- 2 -

A parent representative suggested that children who have high needs require one-on-one assistance during lunch program. Committee members suggested that lunch program staff should be paid a little over minimum wage. Committee members 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. Committee members were informed that the feedback on lunch programs will be compiled for review by the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.

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 Committee members were 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, Committee members were 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. Committee members also discussed that schools are not giving enough hours to lunch program staff. Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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. Committee members 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. Committee members discussed mental health and academic supports due to COVID recovery.

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

4. ENQUIRES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- Shaughnessy Park School
- Ralph Brown School

NORTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 14, 2023

- 3 -

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

Committee members were informed the next North District Advisory Committee meeting will be held in May (T.B.D.).

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 Mospachuk, 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

Parent Advisory School Report (September 2022- February 2023)

1. Staff PD:

- September 7
 - All staff at Shaughnessy in Attendance
 - Review of Division Policies and Procedures
 - Review Shaughnessy Welcome Back plan for students
- September 18
 - In-School – P.D. Day
 - Early Intervention Support Team
 - Tools to support students academically and emotionally
- October 22
 - M.T.S. – P.D. Day
 - Staff choose a pertinent area of interest and attended a session for the day
- January 20
 - In-School – P.D. Day
 - All staff welcomed to attend
 - Literacy
 - Occupational Therapy
- February 3
 - In-School – P.D. Day
 - All staff welcomed to attend
 - Numeracy

2. School Presentations:

Orange Shirt Day

- September 29th
 - School-wide project sending messages to residential school survivors
 - School community walk

Remembrance Day

- November 10th
 - School-Wide
 - Full participation –
 - Piper in the building
 - Poems on Remembrance Day
 - What Peace means to me
 - Reciting of Flanders Fields
 - Student work throughout the building

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- November 17 - 18
- Parents met with teachers at the school to discuss the strengths and next steps for learning of their children

Winter Concert

- December 15th
 - Grades N – 4 Choirs
 - Grade 7/8 Band

3. School Community-building:**Spirit Week**

- October 25th – 29th
 - School-Wide
 - Full participation
 - Different dress up days each day before Halloween

Breakfast with Santa

- December 16th
 - Full school event with a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus
 - Pancakes served to all students

Pajama Project

- December 16th
 - Donation of a set of pyjamas to every student in the school!!
 - All students wore their new pyjamas to school for the pancake breakfast.

Literacy Month – I love to read week

- February 13 – 17th
 - Drop everything and read, reading buddies, pyjama day

Working on our path of reconciliation

- Project of the Heart – wooden tiles made
- Designing signage throughout the school with different languages

4. Parent Room**Traditional Parenting (Circle of Security Parenting Program)**

- 8 Sessions
- 6 families participating

Zumba

- Families and school community
- Every Thursday
- Year-long

Community Closet and Community Pantry

- Year-round resource to families

Food Security

- Weekly food distribution to families

Other programming and support

- Nutrition Bingo
- Restarting of Granny's Group
- Ongoing support and advocacy for families, parents, and caregivers
- Information sessions
- Drop-ins for families, parents, and caregivers – provide support and resources

5. **Community Connections/Support**

Parent-Council Meeting

- October 20
- November 24
- February 2, 2023

Christmas Hampers for 10 families

Parent-teacher Conferences

- November 17th and 18th

Walking School Bus

- Morning and Afternoon pick up and delivery of students
- Approximately 75 students

6. **Athletics:**

- September 28th
 - Terry Fox Walk
 - Whole-school participation
- Lunch-hour intramurals
 - Grade 5/6 students
 - Grade 7/8 students
 - Volleyball and Floor Hockey
- Grade 5/6 Volleyball Tournament
- Todd McCullough Hoop School
- Grade 7/8 Basketball

7. **School Clubs:**

- Math club
- Garden club
- Chill and Chat

- Recycling club
- Girls Group
- Games club
- Student Video Club
- Sewing Club
- Grade 7/8 Mentor meetings (Matt and Rachel)
- Chess Club
- Dance Club

8. Breakfast Program:

- Daily free program, serving approximately 150 students.
- Program runs from 8:15am daily.

9. Fruit Bowl Program:

- Weekly.
- Fruit bowls provided to classrooms to ensure students have access to food.
- Snacks provided to classrooms

10. Lunch Program:

- \$30.00 per month
- 60 students in attendance daily.

RALPH BROWN SCHOOL



Principal (Acting): Mr. Trevor MacVicar
460 Andrews Street, Winnipeg, MB R2W 4Y1
Ph: 204-589-7355 Fax: 204-589-0100 www.winnipegsd.ca/schools/RalphBrown



North District Advisory Committee Report

February 14, 2023

School Culture

Ralph Brown School has a strong culture of community. In September 2021 our enrolment was 191 with 32 students in the English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program. By June 2022 we had increased to 218 with 38 students in the bilingual program. Today, we have 293 students with 86 in the bilingual Program. We are growing rapidly and welcome new families weekly into the school community.

We had a fantastic evening of music for our Winter Concert in which all grades from Nursery to Grade 8 performed for their families. We needed to schedule two performances to accommodate all families as it was well attended.

In January, our school celebrated Ukrainian Christmas with a group of 12 students in the English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program carolling to local Ukrainian business. It was greatly appreciated and the students were presented with treats and donations as is custom for Ukrainians at this time.

Academics

Students continue to learn and develop their skills in all academic areas. We are fortunate to have several division support teachers working with our classroom teachers to provide professional development to strengthen their skills to be able to provide the best learning experiences for our students. These support teachers work alongside the classroom teachers 1-2 days a week and meet regularly to plan and reflect on their programming for students. We have a Math Mentor Coach working with the teachers and students in rooms 105, 106 and 125. We have a Literacy Intervention Support Teacher working with the intermediate teachers and students in rooms 104 and P3. We have another Literacy Support Teacher working with the primary teachers and students in rooms 128 and P1. We also have an Early Years Support Teacher working with our Nursery to Grade 2 teachers with a special focus on Nature Based Learning. Students will be taken outdoors for their learning in the area of literacy and numeracy. We are so pleased for this additional support and feel that we are able to increase the rigor in our teaching and learning post COVID. We are very thankful for these supports the division is able to offer to schools.

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English-Ukrainian Bilingual Program

Our program is growing rapidly and we recently opened a new classroom to accommodate the enrolment. In January, we held our traditional Ukrainian Christmas Dinner for the students and families in the program. It was a packed house with 250 in attendance. Our students performed several songs for their families followed by a brief presentation about the traditions and then time together eating a meal. It was a great evening and was well received by our families who many shared that it meant a lot for them to be here at Ralph Brown and how it reminds them of Ukraine. As a staff, we are grateful for the parent volunteers and community businesses who supported this event.



Current Initiatives

Indigenous Gathering and Teaching Space: We are on a journey to developing a space that we can welcome elders, grandmothers and grandfathers into our school. In consultation with an elder and Indigenous Support Staff, so far, we have incorporated our school tipi, treaty timelines, treaty education kits, and a sharing circle. Our goal is to create a space that we gather in community and deepen our understanding of Indigenous Peoples and work towards reconciliation.



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Snack Program: Ralph Brown School offers daily healthy snacks to all students each morning. Thanks to the generous grants of the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba and the Breakfast Club of Canada, we are able to provide a variety of vegetables, fruits, grains, toast, and eggs.



Skate Club: In partnership with the Ralph Brown Rec Centre, we are able to provide students the opportunity to learn to skate or improve their skills during the lunch hours for the months of January to March or until the weather warms. Students are provided skates and a helmet to use from the Rec Centre or students may bring their own equipment.

Parent Advisory Committee

Our PAC is very active in our school community with fundraising efforts and the operating of the lunch program. We are currently selling Kovbasa to raise funds to support our STEAM programming. We are pleased to share that all of our Executive positions are filled and we have a Ukrainian Parent Liaison member to assist our new families with any inquiries they have or find ways to get involved in the school.

Community Partnerships

Ralph Brown School was pleased to be asked by the Manitoba Metis Federation to send a small choir group to perform for their annual televised Christmas special. Under the direction of our new Music Teacher, Pani Olena Kharchenko, 25 students participated singing an English Song and a Ukrainian Song for the holidays. The program was on CTV on December 26th. We are so proud of our students for representing Ralph Brown School.

Other

Family Skate Night: Families are invited to attend Family Skate Night, an event put on by the Ralph Brown Rec Centre on Thursday, February 23rd from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Open House: We will be holding our Open House event virtually on Thursday, February 23rd from 6:30 – 7:30.