

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, February 12, 2025

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. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The parent representative from Lansdowne School volunteered to Chair the meeting.

3. 2025/2026 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Committee members were informed that at the previous meeting, 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.

Committee members were informed that WSD is committed to lowering class sizes and having more learning support teachers and Educational Assistants (EAs) for the classroom, as well as providing additional clinical support staff.

Committee members were also informed that in an effort to improve instruction, WSD is prioritizing early mathematics and literacy instruction. Staff will be provided additional learning days and WSD is developing a professional development fund for teachers.

Committee members were informed that WSD will continue to support community partners such as Community Education Development Association (CEDA), Pathways, Winnipeg Aboriginal Sport Achievement Centre (WASAC), Peaceful Village, and Boys and Girls Club of Canada. WSD is also looking at opportunities to extend the school day for Middle Years and Senior Years learners.

Committee members were informed that WSD is in the processes of increasing the number of tablets, Chromebooks and high-definition screens in classrooms. WSD is currently undergoing an upgrade to the network and increasing support to schools.

Committee members were informed that WSD is committed to reducing expenses for families by eliminating lunch supervision fees, supporting a universal nutrition program, covering school supplies and field trip transportation fees as well as upgrading aging school play structures so families do not have to fund raise. Committee members were informed that in the 2025/2026 school year, WSD will be upgrading 3 school play structures and installing 5 industrial kitchens.

WSD will also be investing in creative programming including a global issues pilot program

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at Gordon Bell and College Churchill high schools, developing additional International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, creating an inner-city STEAM lab at Hugh John Macdonald, a career lab at RB Russell and putting on a science fair and historical thinking symposium.

Committee members were informed that WSD leads the way in investing in student support and resources amongst Winnipeg metro school divisions.

Committee members were informed the province announced a 3.4% overall increase for education. Committee members were informed that WSD received a 2.4% increase. Committee members were informed that the draft budget for the 2025/2026 school year is \$529,418,325 which is an increase of \$49,069,225 over the budget from the current school year. In order to achieve a balanced budget an increase of 3.4% of the current mill rate would be required, which would increase property tax for the average homeowner by approximately \$52 annually or \$4.35 a month. Committee members were informed the Board of Trustees wants to be mindful before requesting any increase to the property levy.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that EA's have been redistributed throughout the division this year to meet the needs of schools and the unforeseen increase in registration for the 2024/2025 school year. Committee members were also informed that WSD is increasing the number of library technician positions so that every school will have access to a library technician.

A parent representative suggested increasing funding for arts programs as well as science and math.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that previously the province had placed a freeze on the property levy and school divisions were unable to meet increases in cost-of-living expenses. As a result, school divisions were required to reduce expenditures. WSD is in the process of building up areas that did not receive adequate funding during the previous year's such as upgrades to technology and networking. Committee members were informed that if WSD chooses to increase the property levy it would not go into effect until January 2026. Committee members were also informed that the Board of Trustees cannot run a deficit budget. Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees must present the final budget to the Province on March 15, 2025.

Committee members were provided a QR code to a survey where they could provide additional feedback to the Board of Trustees regarding the budget. Committee members were also invited to attend the public forum at Tec Voc High school on Monday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. for additional budget information. Anyone wishing to appear as a delegation at the public forum at Tec Voc may register with the Board Office at 204-775-0231 or email board@wsd1.org.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN

At a previous meeting, Committee members were provided a timeline which outlined the development of the Strategic Plan. In November to March 2024, Trustees worked with consultants to develop a shared understanding of strategic planning process, which examined existing data and develop focus, methodology and actions for data gathering. From April to June 2024 the Trustees launched multiple sessions and different processes to gather guidance and feedback from families, community organizations, staff and students. Over the summer from June to August, the data was analyzed by an external team

of researchers and in meetings held early in the school year trustees shared data analysis the families, community organizations, staff and students to validate and correct any misunderstandings.

Committee members were informed that Trustees, Administration and consultants worked together to develop the WSD Strategic Plan 2025-2030 based on the data collected. Committee members were informed that there were three (3) main themes that came out of the data, Joy (creating a sense of community), Love (supporting a sense of belonging) and Rigour (preparing learners for excellence). Committee members were informed that WSD is committed to providing opportunities for learners to feel confident in the future, inspired, fulfilled, engaged and full of hope. WSD is committed to creating a sense of belonging where every learner is known by multiple adults and they feel safe, respected and free to express their true selves. WSD is also committed to preparing learners for excellence, where every learner feels supported and challenged to excel every day through meaningful activities and lessons to achieve their goals.

Committee members were informed that the Strategic Plan also outlines four (4) High-level strategies. The first strategy is to seek truth and reconciliation by answering the calls to action related to the cultivation of culture, community, language and land in WSD schools. WSD is committed to removing barriers for Indigenous people to lead WSD and contribute to the WSD community.

The second strategy is to build community schools that are barrier free. WSD is committed to eliminating barriers to education, including all exclusionary practices, creating sticky schools that extend the day and keep learners close and to nurture neighbourhood schools that support all learners.

The third strategy is the to develop a culture of thinking and shared sense of responsibility for all children. WSD is committed to developing the capacity in school leaders to unleash the power of the classroom teacher and to cultivate the conditions for the highest quality teaching and deepest learning.

The final strategy is equitable distribution of resources. WSD is committed to distributing resources so that they have the maximum impact for the learners who need them most and to empower and support schools to shift resources for maximum impact.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that schools must post their school plan on the school website.

5. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- NIL

6. FOR INFORMATION

In response to an enquiry regarding the revisions to Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees, Committee members were informed that no decisions have been made yet. Committee members were informed that the Board is considering appointing a trustee to

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chair meetings as many of the advisory committees struggle to find parent volunteers. Committee members were also informed that if the advisory committees move to a consensus-based decision model, the trustees would receive training on how to facilitate those discussions.

In response to an enquiry regarding new French Immersion catchment areas, Committee members were informed that some French Immersion schools were beyond their capacity, while others had vacancy. The changes to the catchment areas were made to ensure equitable distribution of resources, while still allowing students to walk to school.

In response to an enquiry regarding the universal nutrition program, Committee members were informed that overall, it has been a success. Committee members were informed that it is equivalent to opening 15 restaurants, providing breakfast, lunch and snack. The roll out of the program will continue next year, with some schools being scheduled for upgrades to their kitchens to meet demand as well as regulations. Committee members were informed that WSD is currently recruiting for nutrition coordinators.

Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Andrew Mynarski V.C. School
Champlain School
Lansdowne School
Prairie Rose School
Ralph Brown School
Robertson School
Sisler High School
St. John's High School
Stanley Knowles School
Tyndall Park Community School

Administration

Matt Henderson, Superintendent/CEO
Clayton Bodkyn, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Cheryl Chukry, Assistant Superintendent
Faria Sheikh, Vice-Principal, Lansdowne School
Monica Sim, Vice-Principal, Ralph Brown School
Brad Davidson, Principal, St. John's High School
Pat Graham, Principal, Sisler High School
Andrea Hinthier-Janus, Vice-Principal, Stanley Knowles School
Gisele Mospanchuk, Principal, Tyndall Park Community School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Faraday School
Garden Grove School
Inkster Newton School
Isaac Newton School
Lord Nelson School
Luxton School
Meadows West School
Shaughnessy Park School
Waterford Springs School

Trustees

Tamara Kuly
Ann Evangelista
Betty Edel

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Support Worker, Shaughnessy Park School