

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, November 12, 2024

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

Committee members were 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

Committee members were 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.

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

Committee members also expressed that although the current District Advisory meeting structure includes membership across grade levels, there is a commonality among members residing the same community.

Committee members agreed it is important to increase family engagement and suggested providing dates for Advisory meetings for the entire school year at the beginning of the year so that families can make arrangements to attend all meetings.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that that due to timelines beyond administrative control, compiling agenda information does not allow for agendas to be posted more than a week prior to the meeting.

Committee members also requested easier access to Summaries and Reports by adding a tab to the website.

Committee members 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 no later than December 20, 2024. Committee members were informed that if members require clarification on the Guidelines, they may contact Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer at brlapointe@wsd1.org.

4. 2025/2026 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees will also be distributing a survey to all WSD families which will assist in the development of the draft budget.

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

Committee members were 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.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were 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 15th, 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

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were informed that three broad themes came through the feedback that was gathered, community, belonging and excellence. The feedback indicted 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. In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Strategic Plan would include both direct and general instruction that schools would implement in their individual communities.

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

6. WARD BOUNDARIES

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

Committee members were 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.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that new ward boundaries do not affect catchment areas for schools, it only effects the number of schools per ward and the number of schools “assigned” to an elected Trustee.

7. FUNDRAISING IN SCHOOLS

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

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were informed that studies have shown that fundraising can lead to inequity in school divisions creating the “have” and “have-not” schools. Committee members were 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 can result in the government reducing funding.

Committee members were 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.

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

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were 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.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that communication between families and school administration regarding fundraising is vital to ensure public funding isn't already available. Committee members were 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.

Committee members suggested that Parent Councils may require additional purpose or direction if they are no longer responsible for lunch programs or fundraisers. Committee members 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.

8. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- NIL

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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