

March 4, 2024

South District Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2024

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## **SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2024**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 14, 2024

The South District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

### **1. Land Acknowledgement**

The Committee was informed 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 Committee Chair**

The parent representative from Brock Corydon School volunteered to chair the meeting.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

The Committee approved the agenda as distributed.

### **4. WSD 2024/2025 Budget Consultation**

At the previous meeting, the Committee was requested to consult with their school communities to identify priorities for consideration as part of the upcoming budget process.

At a meeting held January 15, 2024, the Board of Trustees reviewed the feedback from parents/guardians which included; smaller class sizes, improved classroom instruction, greater academic engagement, increase attendance and graduation rates, improve maths and literacy achievement, additional learning support for teachers in school, provide universal nutrition program, phase-in no-fee lunch supervision, replace three school playgrounds annually, build powerful neighbourhood schools, enhance school safety, improve settlement services for newcomers and expand adult EAL to the Shaughnessy Park area and develop the R.B. Russell career lab.

The Committee was informed that recently the Superintendent sent a letter to all families regarding the 2024/2025 Budget. Parents/Guardians were invited to provide feedback regarding programs/services that matter to their child/family.

On February 1, 2024, the provincial government announced funding for education in the amount of \$104.2 million. WSD received an increase of 1% (\$2.6 million) over last year's budget. The Committee was informed that the 1% increase in funding does not cover the costs related to inflation and operations maintaining staffing, programs and services. The government also invested \$30 million to expand the nutrition program and \$3 million to assist school divisions in reducing class size. The Division currently spends \$5 million on the nutrition program. The Committee was informed that currently nutrition programs are funded through grants and other resources to ensure that every student who needs a meal receives one.

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The Committee was informed that the Division was able to identify approximately \$4 million in administrative savings. The Committee was informed that a 3.4% increase to property taxes which equates to approximately \$51 per average household on an average home valued at \$246,700. This would allow WSD to maintain current programs, services and provide for fully funded nutrition and food programs as well as provide \$2.6 million to be allocated to budget priorities outlined by the school community.

The Committee received a Budget brochure which identified the priorities outlined in the feedback from parents/guardians. The priorities were placed into three categories; Improve student success, create “sticky” schools and community supports. The Committee held round table discussions to identify priorities under the three categories.

The Committee was informed that the Division has heard the concerns from the community regarding safety. The Committee was informed that the Division is in the process of considering a program similar to Bear Clan Patrol Inc. The program could patrol areas from Elmwood to Shaunessy Park schools.

The Committee agreed that equity should be an important factor when deciding on how to best use budget funds including decisions regarding which schools will be next to receive playgrounds, before and after programs, French and language programs, and lunch program. The Committee agreed that there needs to be consistency regarding what schools offer to students and families both physically as well as specialty programs and excellent staff, to reduce the need to attend school outside their catchment areas. The Committee was informed that currently approximately 5,000 students do not attend their neighborhood school which equates to approximately \$10 million that is spent on busses that are required to transport students.

The Committee expressed support for bringing librarians back into schools as well as improving music and arts programs. The Committee expressed the importance of teachers sharing their passions to create unique programs.

The Committee expressed support for improved programing for students with inclusive needs including early diagnosis and improved communication, regulation/consistency. The Committee agreed that many students may have a “hidden” learning challenge that requires additional support without a formal diagnosis.

The Committee also suggested funding be provided for sports, arts, outdoor education, drama, dance, visual arts, mental health supports, and summer care programs. The Committee also stressed the importance of decolonizing schools to make them more inclusive and “sticky”.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is hosting a budget consultation meeting open to the public on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Tec Voc High School. Input on the draft budget can be submitted by email to [board@wsd1.org](mailto:board@wsd1.org) or by registering at 204-755-0231 no later than February 22<sup>nd</sup> to appear as a delegation at the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee was informed the Board of Trustees will be submitting the budget to the province by March 15, 2024.

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## 5. **WSD 123 Continuous Improvement**

The Committee received a copy of the WSD 123 Continuous Improvement report for review and information. The Committee was informed that the report provides an overview on WSD programs and services during the 2023/2024 school year. As part of the educational mandate in Manitoba, WSD addresses high levels of academic achievement in literacy and numeracy through planning with the Kindergarten to Grade 12 Framework for Continuous Improvement. These divisional plans outline clear outcomes, comprehensive monitoring processes, baseline data, and measurable targets for all students across diverse languages of instruction. The plan also includes strategic utilization of grants, the emphasis on enhancing instructional leadership, and the essential role of stakeholder involvement in developing school division plans.

The Committee was encouraged to share the report with their respective parent councils.

## 6. **Lunch Program Pilot**

At a previous meeting, the Committee was informed WSD has launched the lunch program pilot to address the financial strain on families by eliminating fees for lunch supervision in five elementary schools; École Sacré-Coeur, Shaughnessy Park School, Carpathia School, Isaac Brock School and École LaVérendrye.

The Committee was informed that the cost to implement the program Division-wide would be approximately \$5 million. The Committee was informed the lunch program pilot will be reassessed in May to determine the possibility of expanding the program for the next school year.

## 7. **Staggered Start Times**

On January 17, 2024, the Committee was informed that many WSD high schools will be implementing either a late start or early dismissal each week beginning in February.

The Committee was informed that one day per week, (mainly Wednesdays), classes will either begin an hour later or end an hour earlier. The purpose of the amended class schedules is to eliminate barriers for approximately 2,500 students who are struggling to get to school for a variety of reasons while also providing staff with time to come together, determine who they are missing, make phone calls, organize home visits and to strategize about how to make schools rich, deep and welcoming.

The Committee was informed that to accommodate for the loss of an hour per week, June exams will be pushed back to add additional instructional days to the calendar, so students will receive the same amount, if not more, instructional time.

The Committee was informed that seven schools have already implemented the amended schedules. Administration will assess the success of the amended schedules to determine if it will be implemented on a division-wide basis.

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Respectfully Submitted,

KATHY HEPPNER  
Trustee Representative

**In Attendance:**

**Voting Representatives:**

Brock Corydon School  
College Churchill High School  
Earl Grey School  
Gladstone School  
Grosvenor School  
Harrow School  
Kelvin High School  
Laverendrye School  
Lord Roberts School  
Montrose School  
Queenston School  
Robert H. Smith School  
Rockwood School

**Regrets:**

Carpathia School  
Ecole Sir William Osler School  
Grant Park High School  
J.B. Mitchell School  
River Heights School  
Riverview School

**Administration:**

Matt Henderson, Superintendent  
Lorelei Bunkowsky, Assistant Superintendent  
Amanda Manness, Principal, Carpathia School  
Georgia Wells, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School  
Amanda Capina, Principal, École LaVérendrye  
Fernando Batista, Principal, Harrow School  
Suzanne Mole, Principal, Montrose School  
Amanda Tetrault, Acting Vice-Principal, River Heights School  
Angela Perez, Principal, Rockwood School  
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

**Trustees:**

Lois Brothers  
Kathy Heppner (Regrets)