

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2026

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

January 29, 2026

The South 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. WSD 2026/2027 Budget Update

The Superintendent provided an overview of the 2026/2027 Draft Budget. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is in the process of drafting the budget based on a stand pat budget.

Last year, WSD committed to smaller classroom sizes, increasing positions for teachers, educational assistants and clinical support staff. WSD has been working to reduce financial barriers for families by providing no-fee lunch programs and field trips, expanding childcare facilities and after-school programming in schools, and installing new school play structures that are funded by WSD. The implementation of a Universal Nutrition Program and installation of kitchens in some schools has also assisted in reducing financial barriers for families. WSD has also been working toward the renewal of school libraries, enriched programming in Math, Literacy, STEM, and the Arts and Music, updating IT network and classroom technology and developing a teacher professional development fund.

For the 2026/2027 school year, WSD is proposing to implement full-day Kindergarten in six schools, expanding childcare spaces in schools, investing more in school repairs and infrastructure, planning a new high school in northwest Winnipeg, building additional tracks and playing fields at schools, using consistent early reading checks to support young learners, strengthening math learning through JUMP Math teacher training, expanding hands-on land-based and project-based learning, adding more 'Global Issues' programming to Senior years schools, upgrading more IT network and school technology and keeping school taxes responsible while meeting employee wage increases.

The Committee was informed that since 2023, WSD has added 134.1 teacher positions, 275.2 educational assistant positions and 5 clinician positions. WSD is proposing to maintain staffing levels for the 2026/2027 school year.

The Committee was informed that due to recently negotiated contracts and increased wages, expenditures for the 2026/2027 school year are anticipated to be approximately 4.9% more than the previous year. WSD anticipates a 2% increase in provincial funding over last year and is proposing to increase the mill rate by 1.067. This increase based on a home valued at \$269,900 in WSD would be paying an additional \$8 per month (or \$95 annually) in property tax.

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The Committee requested that WSD provide a breakdown of expenditures from the 2024/25 school year for information.

The Committee was informed that a mill rate increase will allow WSD maintain stable public education by addressing rising costs from collective agreements, such as wage harmonization, teacher preparation time, and provincial requirements for smaller class sizes. If Provincial funding amounts to a 2% increase, minor adjustments may need to be made to offset current expenditures.

The Committee was informed that exemptions allowing businesses to avoid paying taxes in WSD Boundaries contribute to funding disparities. The Committee identified the need for discussions with the Minister of Education and the Mayor to advocate for solutions that would help bridge funding gaps between school divisions.

The Committee was informed that early reading screening is a structured process through tiers to support students and identify potential readers difficulties which can lead to barriers.

The Committee was informed that there are existing data on reading, writing, speaking, school and division level interventions, and ongoing efforts to increase consistency. The Committee was encouraged to engage their Principals on literacy and numeracy outcomes. The Committee requested that the numeracy team be invited to the next meeting to provide an overview.

The Committee was informed that WSD will be distributing a survey to all families to provide feedback to assist the Board of Trustees in finalizing the budget. A QR code and a link to the survey will be emailed to parents and will also be available on the WSD website. The Committee was also informed that WSD will be hosting a budget meeting Tuesday, February 24, in the Board Room at 1577 Wall Street at 5:00 p.m. Those wishing to appear as a delegation regarding the budget can register by contacting the Board and Community Liaison Office by emailing board@wsd1.org no later than Thursday, February 19.

3. Catchment Area Boundaries

At a previous meeting, Committee Members requested that Catchment Area Boundaries be added to the Agenda for discussion.

The Committee was informed that the following schools are not accepting School of Choice applications for the 2026/27 School Year:

- École Secondaire Sisler High School
- École Secondaire Kelvin High School
- École River Heights School
- École Lansdowne School
- École Waterford Springs School
- Brock Corydon School (English program)
- Fort Rouge School

The Committee was informed that École Laura Secord and École Robert H. Smith will both transition into Elementary French Milieu schools effective the 2026/2027 school year.

The Committee was informed that the catchment area boundaries for Queenston and Grosvenor Schools will be amended to provide new students residing in the École Robert

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H. Smith School neighbourhood registering for the English program students to attend either Mulvey or Wolseley School based on their home address residence.

4. Policy JEC – School Admissions/Schools of Choice

At a previous meeting, Committee Members requested that the Policy regarding School of Choice be added to the Agenda for discussion.

The Committee was informed that although some schools have classroom space, staffing is assigned after the budget is finalized. Any changes to enrolment will place some schools at a disadvantage if there was a significant increase or reduction in class size. The Committee was informed that students who want to register in a language program do not need to complete a School of Choice application.

The Committee was informed that enrolment projections are provided to see where there will be increase in students and to be able to make adjustments to staffing where necessary.

The Committee was informed that School of Choice is prioritized for siblings requesting to go to the same school and for students already attending childcare in schools.

The Committee was informed that WSD has the responsibility to manage catchment areas to ensure that schools are not empty or above capacity. The Committee was also informed that parents can register as a delegate to attend the Board Meeting to appeal the decision.

5. Parent Council Meetings

The Committee was informed that the number of Parent Council meetings held within a school year should be determined by all parents attending the meeting and included in the constitution. The Committee was informed that this would include the time frame for meetings. The Committee was informed that it is recommended that Parent Council meetings not exceed one hour, however, the time can be extended based on items on the Agenda and by unanimous consent of the parents, as required.

6. Data Hub

The Committee was informed that WSD Communications is in the process of overhauling the website systematically. The Committee was informed that the Career Page has been updated for accessibility and easier navigation.

The Committee was informed that the Data Hub on the website will include data on attendance, class sizes, staff absenteeism and graduation rates. The Committee was encouraged to contact the Board of Trustees if they would like specific data to be included on the website.

7. Application Process for Playground Structures

The Committee was informed that last year, as part of the Budget discussions, the Board committed to updating three play structures per year. The Committee was also informed that funding up to a maximum \$100,000 is also available for play structures through the Children's Heritage Education Endowment Fund, and the Funding for Play Structures /

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Grounds application for financial support from the Board of Trustees. The Committee was also informed that schools can apply once every 10 years.

The Committee was informed that repairs for play structures are processed through the Facilities Department. The Committee was informed that any accessibility additions required for play structures could be discussed with the Assistant Superintendent of Student-Centred Services. The Committee was informed that decision on priority is based on the assessment and condition of the play structures by the Operations Team through the Facilities Department.

8. Parent Council Feedback: Childcare, Nursery, and Kindergarten

At the previous District Advisory Committee meeting, families were invited to complete a survey to identify barriers and opportunities related to childcare, nursery, and kindergarten.

Feedback was received from 18 schools. Families indicated that key barriers include lack of available spaces, insufficient available hours of operation, affordability, long waitlists and unclear communication, infrastructure and regulatory barriers, program design and developmental gaps, operational instability and quality concerns, transportation challenges, equity and systemic impact.

Families suggested re-establishing and expanding school-based childcare, expanding full day kindergarten and nursery options, increasing wrap around and after school programming, strengthening partnerships and system coordination, increasing capacity through strategic funding, improving quality and developmental supports, providing clear communication and family engagement opportunities, supporting families with multiple children, providing more affordability and access and providing opportunities for community to contribute.

Families also suggested learning from existing models and pilot programs, improving transportation and accessibility, strengthening community partnerships and utilizing community spaces. The Board of Trustees will review the feedback as part of the 2026/2027 budget discussions.

The Committee was informed that the feedback provided will assist WSD in creating an informed action plan and have conversations with the Province to target the issues.

9. Ward Boundaries Report

The Committee received the new Ward Boundaries effective the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election for information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Dumont
Trustee Representative

In Attendance**Voting Representatives:**

Collège Churchill High School
Earl Grey School
Gladstone School
Grosvenor School
École J.B. Mitchell School
Montrose School
École River Heights School
Robert H. Smith School
École Sir William Osler School

Regrets:

Brock Corydon School
Carpathia School
Grant Park High School
Harrow School
École LaVérendrye School
Lord Roberts School
Queenston School
École Riverview School
Rockwood School
École Secondaire Kelvin High School

Administration:

Matt Henderson, Superintendent
Lorelei Bunkowsky, Assistant Superintendent
Lars Sigurdson, Principal, Brock Corydon
Steven Nikkel, Principal, Gladstone School
Fernando Batista, Principal, Harrow School
Timothy Cox, Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin High School
Suzanne Mole, Principal, Montrose School
Shannon Unrau, Vice-Principal, École River Heights School
Dominique Ostermann, Principal, École Sir William Osler School
David Vo, Administrative Clerk, Board Office

Trustees:

Jamie Dumont
Kathy Heppner (Regrets)