

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2024

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 19, 2024

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. Introductions

The Committee was informed that Trustee Jamie Dumont was appointed as the Board's representative, and Trustee Lois Brothers was appointed as the Board's alternative representative to this Committee.

Parent representative from Rockwood volunteered to Chair the South District Advisory Committee.

3. Guidelines For Board Advisory Committees

The Committee was 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.

The Committee was concerned that the new structure may result in discrepancy in identifying the needs of schools. The focus of the meeting may be quite split, and certain topics may not be applicable to others. Committee members recommended that we have two separate groups to have a more meaningful dialogue.

The Committee suggested simplifying the language used in the document to provide clarity.

The Committee was concerned that the transition of geographical meeting to an age-based meeting may create barriers for families having to attend multiple meetings.

The Committee suggested that the term committee be changed to be less formal and more inclusive, such as Town Hall.

The Committee 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. If you require clarification please contact Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer, at brlapointe@wsd1.org.

4. 2025/2026 Budget Consultation

The Committee was informed that the Province of Manitoba has confirmed 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.

The Committee suggested that more Educational Assistants are needed to supervise the lunch program. Committee members also suggested additional funding for more art experiences, field days, kindergarten, and for land-based learning and mental health would be beneficial to support student learning.

The Committee was informed that 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 3 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?

In addition, the Board of Trustees will distribute a survey to all WSD families which will assist in the development of the draft budget.

5. Strategic Plan Verification of Data

The Committee was 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.

The Committee was informed that 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.

The Committee was informed that individuals who indicated that they were interested in participating in validating the data collected at the previous meeting.

The Committee was informed that the purpose of this questionnaire is to ensure accurate information was collected, not to provide new or additional feedback if the data does not reflect/capture their feedback. Individuals who requested to be part of the process are asked to please contact brlapointe@wsd1.org no later than December 20, 2024.

6. Ward Boundaries

The Committee was informed that at the meeting held on 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 also states that each trustee of a school

South District Advisory Committee Report No. 3-2024

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.

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.

The Committee was informed an update will be provided at the next meeting.

7. Fundraising In Schools

Community members were informed that in September/October, information from the Superintendent was provided to families and administration regarding fundraising in schools.

The Committee was 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.

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

Committee members recommended a list of approved fundraisers be provided to schools. The Committee was encouraged to consult with the Principal to determine funding requirements and priorities. The Committee was also informed any fundraising that is completed must be documented in the minutes of the PAC and must include the purpose of the fundraiser as well as the amount of funds raised.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Dumont
Trustee Representative

In Attendance**Voting Representatives:**

Collège Churchill High School
Earl Grey School
Grosvenor School
Harrow School
École Secondaire Kelvin High School
École LaVérendrye School
Montrose School
Queenston School
École Riverview School
Robert H. Smith School
École Sir William Osler School

Administration:

Matthew Henderson, Superintendent
Lorelei Bunkowsky, Assistant Superintendent
Clayton Bodkyn, Secretary-Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer
Amanda Manness, Principal, Carpathia School
Georgia Wells, Acting Principal, Collège Churchill High School
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, Collège Churchill High School
Tim Cox, Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin High School
Lauranne Benoit, Vice-Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin High School
Meghan Davidson, Vice-Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin High School
Suzanne Mole, Principal, Montrose School
Shannon Unrau, Vice-Principal, École River Heights School
Adam Dyck, Principal, Robert H. Smith School
David Vo, Administrative Clerk, Board Office

Regrets:

Brock Corydon School
Carpathia School
Gladstone School
Grant Park High School
École J.B. Mitchell School
Lord Roberts School
École River Heights School
Rockwood School

Trustees:

Jamie Dumont
Lois Brothers
Kathy Heppner