

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2025

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

October 23, 2025

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. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee requested that the Catchment Application Process be added to the Agenda. The revised Agenda was approved by consensus vote.

3. Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees

During the 2024/2025 school year, the Board of Trustees reviewed the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees to consider options to improve and encourage parental engagement and involvement. The Board held many consultations to receive feedback from families on the structure of the meetings and to identify areas of improvement to ensure meetings are accessible, include thought-provoking topics and how members participate and their role as a parent representative of their school community.

A draft of the Guidelines for the District Advisory Committee was distributed to families with proposed revisions to increase parental engagement and provide opportunities for families to share information and network with other schools.

Based on the feedback, the Board of Trustees agreed that additional feedback was required. A survey for families was created to identify some key priorities regarding the role and structure of District Advisory Committees to make meetings more inclusive for families and to foster meaningful engagement with the community. A total of 228 families provided feedback to the Board. The feedback indicated that families prefer Trustees to Chair the meetings and that the meetings be held from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at rotating school locations.

The Committee was informed that as committees will now be voting by consensus, having a trustee chair the meeting who will be familiar with processes to reach consensus, and by moving to elected officials to chair meetings, every parent will have the opportunity to voice their inquiries.

The Committee requested clarification regarding the role of representatives versus observers. The Committee was informed that any parent may attend and contribute, but matters that require a formal vote are limited to one parent representative per school to prevent disproportionate influence from larger schools or groups.

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The Committee requested clarification regarding the process for introducing motions. The Committee was informed that school representatives are responsible for sharing information with their respective Parent Councils for review and discussion. Parent Councils may provide suggestion or feedback to present back to the District Advisory Committee. If a motion is agreed to by the Committee, the report will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration. The Committee was informed that the Notice of Motion process ensures that motions represent a collective voice rather than individual voices.

The Committee expressed concern that this may limit their ability to respond to emerging issues. The Committee was informed that internal motions such as request for information, can be handled within the Committee while motions requesting Board actions require broader consultation and discussed with Parent Councils.

The Committee suggested flexibility be provided to address motions that are urgent in nature. The Committee was informed that the current procedure is standard at all levels of government and supports all other Committees to ensure all parents received the information and can make informed decisions or recommendations.

The Committee requested distributing the meeting agenda ideally four weeks in advance to provide Parent Councils sufficient time to discuss topics and prepare feedback on issues being considered.

The Committee was informed that quorum is determined by the number of schools who have a parent representative registered as a member of the District Advisory Council, divided by two plus one.

4. Budget Timelines

At a meeting held October 6, 2025, the Finance/Personnel Committee made recommendations to the Board of Trustees related to guidelines for preparation of the First Draft Budget. It has been the practice of the Finance/Personnel Committee to request that the First Draft Budget be prepared based on continuing all programs and services that are currently in place.

During the 2024/2025 school year, the Board of Trustees heard from many families across WSD regarding the challenges of finding childcare that is convenient and affordable. Although Manitoba has made commitments to build and improve accessible childcare for families, there may be an opportunity for WSD to contribute to reducing waiting lists by strengthening access for families as well increasing the quality of early childhood space and creating barrier-free, inclusive, community-rooted programs for childcare, nursery and kindergarten programs and services.

The Committee was informed that the budget process has started and that Parent Advisory Councils are invited to provide feedback regarding barriers, opportunities and community needs. The Committee was informed that a survey will be emailed to school representatives to share with their Parent Council to gather feedback on budget priorities. The Committee was informed that the feedback will help identify needs related to childcare, nursery, and kindergarten programming.

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The Committee was informed that it is anticipated that the budget for the 2026/27 school year will remain status quo. The Committee was informed that the previous year's budget included significant adjustments to the network infrastructure and staffing needs. The Committee was informed that a budget consultation meeting will be held at Tec Voc High School to accommodate more participants.

5. Lunch Programs

At a previous meeting, the Committee requested an update on the number of schools transitioning to a lunch program for the 2025/2026 school year.

The Committee was informed that all schools have transitioned to the WSD providing a Lunch Program for students.

The Committee expressed concerns regarding the increased workload of teachers and administrators covering lunch supervision. The Committee shared information on the various processes used to support the supervision of students in the lunch programs.

The Committee also shared positive experiences with Balanced School Day schedules. The Committee shared that Balanced School Days has resulted in more manageable supervision and better student engagement.

6. Catchment Application

The parent representative from Rockwood community shared parent experiences on registering students for out of catchment schools. The representative from Rockwood stated that other students had requested out-of-catchment placements for program specific reasons and safety concerns related to bullying and whether these can be considered as an exception to the policy.

The Committee requested clarification on students having access to specialized programming across schools such as Sisler CREATE, Kelvin International Baccalaureate, Elmwood Film and how students who live outside the catchment area can enrol at these program specific schools..

The Committee was informed that metro schools are now enforcing stricter catchment boundaries to balance enrolment and resources. The Committee was informed that before, students could attend any schools, which lead to overcrowding and low enrolment in other schools which affected funding and staffing. The Committee was informed that with students attending their catchment schools, there has been increase in enrolment in schools that had low enrolment. The Committee was informed that exceptions are still considered, particularly for safety or unique program needs in consultation with the Assistant Superintendents.

The Committee shared that due to the enforcement of catchment schools, some schools have been impacted with low enrolment. The Committee was informed that with enrolment shifts, catchment adjustments may be needed as demographics change.

The Committee discussed daycare programs in schools and how this may affect school enrolment priorities. The Committee was informed that daycare programs work with the schools and can accept families that are on the daycare waitlist.

7. Future Agenda Items

The Committee agreed to add the School of Choice Policy, Catchment Area, and Apply Process for Playground Structures to the next meeting for discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Heppner
Trustee Representative

In Attendance**Voting Representatives:**

Brock Corydon School
Gladstone School
Grant Park High School
Grosvenor School
Harrow School
École J.B. Mitchell School
École Secondaire Kelvin High School
École LaVérendrye School
Queenston School
École River Heights School

Rockwood School
École Sir William Osler School

Regrets:

Carpathia School
Collège Churchill High School
Earl Grey School
Lord Roberts School
Montrose School
École Riverview School
Robert H. Smith School

Administration:

Matt Henderson, Superintendent
Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer
Lorelei Bunkowsky, Assistant Superintendent
Shelley Warkentin, Assistant Superintendent
Amanda Maness, Principal, Carpathia
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, Collège Churchill High School
Nicole Kurtz, Principal, Grosvenor School
Fernando Batista, Principal, Harrow School
Timothy Cox, Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin High School
Lauranne Benoit, Vice-Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin High School
Shannon Unrau, Vice-Principal, École River Heights School
David Vo, Administrative Clerk, Board Office

Trustees:

Kathy Heppner
Jamie Dumont