

March 6, 2023

South District Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2023

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2023

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 9, 2023

The South District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous People of Canada

The Committee was informed that the meeting of the South District Advisory Committee is taking place on Treaty One Land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Métis.

2. Election of Committee Chair

The parent representative from Queenston School volunteered to chair the meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda for February 9, 2023, as distributed.

4. 2023/2024 Draft Budget

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees are currently in the process of obtaining feedback on the 2023/2024 budget. The Committee was informed that for 2023/2024, the Board of Trustees is proposing a budget that maintains existing programs and allows for a limited number of additional supports for students in the areas of bilingual language programs, transportation, increased student support services and educational assistants.

The Committee was informed that revenue previously gathered from property tax remains frozen at the 2020 level.

The Committee was informed that the Board develops the budget based on WSD's guiding principles which include leading education innovation, high quality education, employing competent, qualified and caring staff and managing tax dollars responsibly.

The Committee was informed that on February 2, 2023, the Province announced the new funding formula for Manitoba schools, which included an increase of \$100 million dollars in provincial funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools. The additional funding represents an increase of approximately 4.1 percent in operating funding for Winnipeg School Division.

The Committee was informed that WSD provides programming outside of what is mandated by the Public Schools Act including staffing for intercultural and newcomer supports, library and computer technicians, adult crossing guards, off-campus programs, additional early years professional development, library support services and attendance officers. WSD also offers additional programming such as Therapy services, summer school, nutrition programs, nursery as well as providing funding for students attending events outside of the Division.

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The Committee was encouraged to share priorities to be considered by the Board of Trustees to be added to the 2023/2024 budget.

The Committee expressed the importance of increasing the number of Educational Assistants (EA) in schools. The Committee shared concerns that funded positions for EA's may be vacant. The Committee agreed EA's require more supports such as mental health supports, additional training and professional development days.

The Committee was informed that EA support is provided through provincial block funding.

The Committee recommended increasing support services for schools, families and students. The Committee shared concerns that some schools have seen a reduction in office and library staff. Schools also need additional clinicians and mental health supports such as guidance counsellors for staff and students.

The Committee recommended hiring employees who would have the opportunity to learn programming for individual students while building relationships.

The Committee requested additional funding for arts programs and recommended that schools be provided a budget for programs that are unique to the school that require additional funding to be sustainable. The Committee suggested offering Pow Wow Clubs, smudging, drumming, jigging and fiddle programs in schools, as well as additional funding for music programs, STEAM, physical education/sports, swimming lessons and reading recovery in both French immersion and English schools.

The Committee also recommended additional funding for heating and cooling systems in schools.

The Committee discussed the funding of lunch programs and offered suggestions including offering a subsidy program for families that require additional assistance, or providing a completely subsidized program run by WSD.

The Committee was informed that a Special Board meeting will be held on February 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at 1577 Wall Street. Anyone wishing to provide additional feedback on the budget may register as a delegation. Budget feedback can also be submitted via email to Board@wsd1.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

KATHY HEPPNER
Trustee Representative

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives:

Carpathia School
Earl Grey School
Ecole Sir William Osler School
Grant Park High School
Harrow School
Laverendrye School
Queenston School
Riverview School
Robert H. Smith School
Rockwood School

Regrets:

Brock Corydon School
College Churchill High School
Gladstone School
Grosvenor School
J.B. Mitchell School
Kelvin High School
Lord Roberts School
Montrose School
River Heights School

Administration:

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent Education Services
Ryan Hughes, Acting Director
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School
Dan Keith, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School
Camie Lawson, Principal, Grosvenor School
Fernando Batista, Principal, Harrow School
Timothy Cox, Principal, Kelvin High School
Dominic Zagari, Principal, River Heights School
Lauranne Parnell, Vice-Principal, River Heights School
Michelle Namaka, Principal, Queenston School
Adam Dyck, Principal, Robert H. Smith School
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Trustee:

Kathy Heppner
Lois Brothers (regrets)
Jamie Dumont
Perla Javate
Ann Evangelista
Tamara Kuly
Dante Aviso