

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, February 17, 2022

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA

Committee members were 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 Metis.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee members approved the agenda of February 17, 2022, as distributed.

3. 2022/2023 DRAFT BUDGET

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO was in attendance and provided an overview of the Draft Budget for the 2022/2023 school year.

Committee members were informed that last year the Board of Trustees approved the 2021/2022 Budget in the amount of \$421,039,400. Committee members were informed that the Division was forced to make reductions of \$4,457,395 for programs and services due to a drop in provincial funding of 1.6 percent or \$2,926,520. This also included the direction from the provincial government to freeze the at property tax levies at 2020 levels.

Committee members were informed the Board of Trustees is proposing a stand pat budget of \$437,118,200. The baseline funding has decreased by 1.3 percent, or \$2,325,538, while one-time funding of \$13,217,517 has been provided for next year and property tax levies for education will remain frozen at 2020 levels. Committee members were informed that one-time funding for 2022/2023 is intended to cover collective agreement settlements and additional costs related to pandemic staffing.

Committee members were informed that a large portion of the budget is determined by student enrolment numbers each year. The Province acknowledged that the lower student enrolment was related to the pandemic and implemented a hybrid enrolment calculation that was higher than then actual student enrolment numbers. Committee members were informed that even with the hybrid calculation funding for the Division resulted in a 3.14 percent or approximately \$13,700,000 deficit. However, the one-time funding of approximately \$13,000,000 provided by the province, and the ending of the pilot Full-Day Kindergarten program, provided sufficient funding to offset deficit.

Committee members were informed that although the hybrid enrolment calculation and the one-time funding from the province has assisted in balancing the budget for this year, future budgets are still at risk without additional funding for education.

Committee members expressed concern regarding future budgets and whether it would be feasible to make minor adjustments now rather than making drastic reductions to staffing and programs in the future. Committee members were informed that if the Board were to take any proactive steps this year by making moderate reductions it could result in a potential loss of the one-time funding from the province.

In response to an enquiry regarding lower student enrolment, Committee members were informed that the Division's Research Department projects student enrolment based on the Statistic Canada Survey, including the housing market, birth rates and demographics. Due to a lower birth rate there will be fewer students-is projected for Nursery and Kindergarten for the

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next 5 – 7 years, which will result in lower student enrolment. In addition, due to the pandemic, immigration to Manitoba has also decreased which affects the student enrolment at WSD. Committee members were informed that the majority of families move out of WSD boundaries due to housing or job opportunities. Committee members requested that student enrolment projections be shared at the next meeting for review.

Committee members were informed that the evaluation of the pilot program did not demonstrate an increase in student learning by the time students who participated in the study entered grade 3 as compared to students with similar demographics. The Board of Trustees provided notice to families that the program would be discontinued as of June 30, 2022. Committee members were informed that if Full-Day Kindergarten was to be reinstated other reductions in programs and services would need considered to offset the costs.

In response to an enquiry regarding whether donors or philanthropic partners provide funding for the Division, Committee members were informed that the Division does receive some donations, however it is not permanent funding.

Committee members agreed that documents provided during last year's budget discussions were helpful in reviewing programs in order to offer feedback on which programs were important to them. Committee members were informed that a list of programs would be sent out to Committee members to share with their respective parent councils. Committee members were encouraged to review the Financial Facts on the WSD website which lists non-mandated programs and services offered by WSD.

Committee members were encouraged to share their input on the 2022/2023 Draft Budget by email, in writing, or by registering to appear virtually as a delegation to the Board of Trustees at the February 28, 2022, Special Meeting.

4. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

Parent representatives from the following schools provided a written report on school activities: (attached):

- NIL

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Brock Corydon School
Earl Grey School
Grant Park High School
Harrow School
J.B. Mitchell School
Kelvin High School
Laverendrye School
River Heights School
Robert H. Smith School
Rockwood School

Regrets

Carpathia School
College Churchill High School
Ecole Sir William Osler
Gladstone School
Grosvenor School
Lord Roberts School
Montrose School
Queenston School
Riverview School

Administration

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Education Services
Paul Kochan, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Julie Millar, Director
Ara Morris, Principal Brock Corydon School
Colin Bruce-Smith, Vice-Principal Brock Corydon School
Susan Christiuk, Principal Carpathia School
Ryan Hughes, Principal College Churchill High School
Patricia Penner, Principal Earl Grey School
Terri Rodrigues-Warner, Principal Gladstone School
Fernando Batista, Principal Harrow School
Timothy Cox, Principal Kelvin High School
Dominic Zagari, Principal River Heights School
Cinzia Caputo, Principal Riverview School
Adam Dyck, Principal Robert H. Smith School
Angela Perez, Principal Rockwood School
Dominique Ostermann, Principal Ecole Sir William Osler
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members

Jennifer Derrett, W.A.N.T.E.

Trustees

Jamie Dumont
Chris Broughton