

## THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

### SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, February 9, 2023

#### 1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA**

Committee members were informed that the South District Advisory Committee meeting 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 AGENDA**

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

#### 4. **2023/2024 DRAFT BUDGET**

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees are currently in the process of obtaining feedback on the 2023/2024 budget. Committee members were 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.

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

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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.

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

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

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that EA support is provided through provincial block funding. WSD uses provincial criteria to prioritize the needs of the students and assigns EA support accordingly. When a student with assigned specific EA time moves to a new school, the funding follows the student for the duration of the school year.

Committee members recommended increasing support services for schools, families and students. Committee members 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.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that WSD employs a team of clinical services including speech pathologists, reading clinicians, social workers and psychologists. WSD also has a contract with Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) through Specialized Services for Children and Youth (SSCY), which provides Occupational and Physiotherapists. Committee members expressed concern that contracted staff do not provide the stability required for some students and recommended hiring employees who would have the opportunity to learn programming for individual students while building relationships.

In response to an enquiry regarding Professional Development (PD) days, Committee members were informed that some PD days are mandated, however, schools also receive a budget and it is up to the individual schools on how those PD funds are distributed.

Committee members 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. Committee members 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 and reading recovery in both French immersion and English schools.

In response to an enquiry regarding swimming lessons, Committee members were informed that WSD provides a "Swim to Survive" program for all grade 4 students. Committee members were informed that for the last 2 years WSD has been unable to offer the program due to the pandemic; however, the program is being reintroduced as public pools reopen. Committee members expressed concern about students that were unable to participate in the program and recommended the Board of Trustees consider options to provide similar programming for students who completed Grade 4 during the pandemic.

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Committee members recommended Trustees compile a list of common items/services/events that Parent Councils fundraise for to determine where additional funding could be useful.

In response to an enquiry about funding for play structures, Committee members were informed that the Children’s Heritage Education Endowment Fund provides funding to assist with the cost of play structures. A parent representative recommended upgrading the Children’s Heritage Education Endowment Fund website to include a drop-down menu for directing funds to a specific school.

Committee members discussed the importance of school community and the involvement of parents in schools. Committee members suggested that Parent Councils should go back to in person meetings as well as allowing parent volunteers in the schools. Committee members also suggested having greeters by the doors of the school to welcome students as well as to provide security.

Committee members recommended additional funding for transportation for field trips. A parent representative informed Committee members that field trips for K – 8 can apply for reimbursement for transportation costs through Daytrippers Children’s Charity for maximum of \$25 per child up to \$1500 total.

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

Committee members 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.

Committee members recommended that the policy include more range and flexibility to provide options for individual lunch programs. Committee members were informed that lunch program feedback can still be submitted to the Board Office for consideration until February 27, 2023.

Committee members were informed that a special Board meeting will be held on February 27, 2023, 7:00 pm 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](mailto:Board@wsd1.org).

**7. 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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**8. DISTRICT ADVISORY REPORTS AND SUMMARIES OF DISCUSSIONS**

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 19, 2022, the Board of Trustees received the Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussion as information. Committee members were informed that once reviewed by the Board, District Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

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