

## THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

### SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, December 1, 2022

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#### 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

Committee members were informed that at the inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees held on November 7, 2022, Trustee Kathy Heppner was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Lois Brothers was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from Brock Corydon School volunteered to chair the meeting.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee members approved the agenda for December 1, 2022, as distributed.

#### 4. WSD BUDGET CONSULTATION 2023/2024

Committee members were informed that on March 15, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a budget for the 2022/2023 school year in the amount of \$437,118,200, which included \$13,217,517 in one-time funding and \$525,358 from accumulated surplus to offset a budgeted deficit. Baseline funding decreased by 1.3 percent (or \$2,325,238) and property tax levies for education remain frozen at 2020 levels.

Committee members were informed that on November 18, 2021, the Province of Manitoba announced the creation of a consultant team to guide the development of a new education funding model which was expected to be implemented by school boards for the 2023/2024 school year, however, to date the province has not announced the new funding model.

Committee members were informed that the consultation team is to be made up of government officials and representatives from a number of organizations including (but not limited to) First Nations schools, independent schools, school superintendents, municipal organizations and parent councils.

Committee members were informed that the current funding model was implemented in the 2002-2003 school year. The goals of the review of the funding model include: creating a formula that allocates provincial funding to Manitoba's 37 school divisions; developing a stable, predictable and phased implementation plan to transition from the existing formula to the new in a way that can accommodate the progress of eliminating education property taxes; and ensuring the unique needs of the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) are accommodated in the design of the formula.

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Committee members were informed that in previous years, the Board has been able to develop balanced budgets through the combination of provincial revenue as well as revenue from the property tax levy. Committee members were informed that provincial funding has dropped from approximately 61 percent of total costs in 2016, to 57 percent of total costs in 2022.

Committee members were informed that due to the drop in provincial funding there is an increased reliance on local property tax levies to make up the shortfall. Without the option to increase property taxes to fund programs and services the Board of Trustees have been forced to make difficult decisions regarding eliminating or reducing some programs unique to the needs of students and families.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees continues to send a strong message to government that it is important that the new funding model supports both the basic education and unique needs of our students and communities.

In response to an enquiry regarding how to address the funding issues, Committee members were informed that the impact cannot be predicted until the new funding model is announced by the province. Committee members were informed that in the event programs or services need to be reduced, the Board of Trustees would be reviewing the programs listed on the Financial Facts document that is available publically on the website to determine which programs are most important to the WSD community.

**5. POLICY KMB – PARENT COUNCIL LUNCH PROGRAMS**

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held May 2, 2022, the Policy/Program Committee agreed to refer draft Policy KMB – Parent Council Lunch Programs to the District Advisory Committees to review with their respective parent councils and to provide feedback no later than January 31, 2022.

Committee members were informed that the policy was developed to provide guidance and support on the responsibilities and acceptable practices for Parent Councils providing lunch programs in schools. Committee members were informed that parent councils had requested support/guidance for the operation of their respective lunch programs as well as concerns regarding consistency for staffing, fees and salaries.

Committee members shared concerns that the draft policy may result in operating a bureaucratic lunch program and that it may not be feasible for all schools to run programs the same way. Committee members were also concerned about the liability of parent councils operating lunch programs, as well as challenges with hiring staff and human resources issues.

In response to an enquiry regarding volunteer shortages, Committee members were informed that in some exceptional cases schools have made arrangements with outside agencies such as the Y.M.C.A., or with school staff who have agreed to assist with the lunch program.

In response to an enquiry regarding universal lunch programs, Committee members were informed that WSD had previously explored the option, but determined it was not financially feasible at that time. Committee members were informed that due to budget concerns, to add a universal lunch program would come at the cost of other programs and services. Committee members suggested that costs could potentially be built into lunch program fees and therefore not affect the budget.

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Committee members requested that the cost of universal lunch programs including the cost per child per day, week and month be added to the next agenda for discussion.

Committee members were encouraged to review the policy with their respective parent councils and to share their thoughts via email to the Board and Community Liaison Officer at [brlapointe@wsd1.org](mailto:brlapointe@wsd1.org) for review and consideration by the Board of Trustees. Parent Councils may also contact the Board and Community Liaison Officer directly for assistance.

Committee members agreed to reach out to contact the Board and Community Liaison Officer with any other questions or requests for clarification.

## **6. RENAMING OF SCHOOLS**

Committee members were informed that during the 2021/22 school year, the Board of Trustees approved a motion to review all schools named after individuals with a history of actions that are not in accordance with WSD values of inclusiveness, diversity, reconciliation and respect for the human rights and human dignity of others.

Committee members were informed that all schools, parent councils, families, community members and organizations may submit recommendations and/or feedback to the Board of Trustees regarding schools named after individuals.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees recently reviewed and revised the renaming process to provide criteria and outline the process for renaming a school. The process may be initiated in response to a request from staff, students, parent councils, community members or a member of the Board of Trustees. All requests must be submitted to the Board in writing and include contact information and a rationale which includes a narrative explaining the basis for the request, the actions of the namesake that are not in accordance with WSD values as well as the sources and strength of evidence of the actions, the harm the continued use of the name may inflict on WSD and its community and any attachments to support the renaming request.

Committee members were informed that renaming request will be referred to the Building/Transportation Committee for review and consideration.

In response to an enquiry regarding the cost of a name change, Committee members were informed that WSD would cover the costs related to signage and legal documents.

In response to an enquiry regarding managing multiple schools requesting a name change simultaneously, Committee members were informed that a process would be developed to prioritize requests.

## **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 March 7, 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:**

Brock Corydon School  
Earl Grey School  
Grant Park High School  
Grosvenor School  
Kelvin High School  
Queenston School  
Robert H. Smith School  
Rockwood School

**Regrets:**

Carpathia School  
College Churchill High School  
Gladstone School  
Harrow School  
J.B. Mitchell School  
Laverendrye School  
Lord Roberts School  
Montrose School  
River Heights School  
Riverview School  
Ecole Sir William Osler School

**Administration:**

Celia Caetano Gomes, Superintendent Education Services  
Ryan Hughes, Acting Director  
Lars Sigurdson, Principal, Brock Corydon School  
Susan Christiuk, Principal, Carpathia School  
Camie Lawson, Principal, Grosvenor School  
Fernando Batista, Principal, Harrow School  
Timothy Cox, Principal, Kelvin High School  
Amanda Capina, Principal, Laverendrye School  
Michelle Namaka, Principal, Queenston School  
Adam Dyck, Principal, Robert H. Smith School  
Angela Perez, Principal, Rockwood School  
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

**Trustee:**

Kathy Heppner  
Lois Brothers (regrets)  
Jamie Dumont