

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2026

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board

February 5, 2026

The Student 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 agreed to add Students Aging Out of Foster Care to the agenda for discussion. The revised agenda for February 5, 2026, was approved by the Committee.

3. Sustainable Practices in School

Whitney Crooks, Program Director of Climate Justice and Sustainability was in attendance to provide an update on the WSD Climate Action Plan.

The Committee was informed that meetings have been held with several WSD Departments such as Nutrition Services, Facilities, Transportation, and Custodial Services, to understand existing practices, needs, and opportunities for alignment amongst internal departments.

The Committee was informed that a baseline is being established across multiple years to review WSD's annual emissions. The Committee was informed that Natural Gas accounts for approximately 94% of WSD's emissions, with remaining contributions from electricity, diesel, gasoline, and propane.

The Committee was informed that the Envelope Project at Gordon Bell High School is a huge success for WSD. The Committee was informed that Envelope Project is about sealing up areas in the buildings which will reduce energy consumption considerably.

The Committee was informed that to date, the Program Director of Climate Justice and Sustainability has completed 26 school visits to consult with students and school staff. During these consultations, common themes emerged, including student interest in forming eco-clubs or groups; growing medicinal plants and food both indoors and outdoors while learning about pollinators and insect habitats; improving waste management practices such as composting, recycling, and reusables; and enhancing sustainable transportation supports such as, parking, a Bike Week initiative, bike repair labs and walking school bus programs.

The Committee was informed of the key deliverables which include a division-wide baseline and environmental scan, student meetings and consultations, networking sessions to build connections and communities of practice, identifying school champions, engagement with

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community partners, which include City, Provincial and Federal collaborators. These are important factors that will begin the development of a draft Climate Action Plan.

The Committee was informed that a Student Exhibition of Learning and Student Forum with Naomi Klein, titled Taking Care of the Planet and Each Other, will be held in early May 2026. The Committee was also advised that those interested in registering may contact Monique Burke at mburke@wsd1.org or Clara Kusumoto at ckusumoto@wsd1.org.

The Committee held round table discussions to highlight several school-based sustainability initiatives across WSD. St. John's High School informed Committee members that students are actively engaged in robotics and projects that integrate environmental action, youth philanthropy, and sustainable community initiatives, emphasizing care for both the planet and one another. Students from Gordon Bell High School provided an update on ongoing construction focused on sustainability features such as increased natural light, the introduction of a new environmental design course, plans for native planting after winter, and preliminary planning for an AI-focused seminar addressing environmental impacts and education, with potential participation from leaders at other schools. The Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute informed Committee members that current efforts are centered on improving composting practices, educating students on proper waste sorting, and using compost to support planting in the school's quad, with a focus on restoring and replenishing the Earth.

4. Employment Opportunities for Teens

Aaron Benarroch, Director of Recruitment and International Education, and Ryan Hughes, Assistant Superintendent, Staff Support and Relations was in attendance to provide an update on Employment Opportunities for Teens.

The Committee received information on supports, employment and career pathways for students. The Committee received an outline of several employment opportunities for students, including summer positions that are available for recent graduates on the grounds team, custodial and maintenance roles for high school students during July and August, and specialized information technology roles for students enrolled in computer and cybersecurity programs. The Committee also received information on the hiring process, emphasizing internal and external applications, and the importance of preparing resumes and application materials. The Committee was also informed that additional supports such as guidance counsellors, volunteer opportunities, resume writing assistance, and references were noted as key resources. The Committee was informed that students can view WSD as a long-term employer, offering a wide range of career paths beyond teaching and ongoing support for future career planning.

5. Students Aging Out of Foster Care

The Committee raised concerns around school alignment for students over age 18, particularly those aging out of foster care who may be required to leave their school if they no longer live within the catchment area. The Committee emphasized the importance of allowing students who are still working toward graduation to remain in their school, citing equity, achievement, mental health, and stability as key considerations.

The Committee was informed that there is a strong commitment to retain students even if they move out of catchment, with transportation often identified as the main barrier rather

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than willingness to enroll. The Committee was informed that WSD aims to provide flexible pathways, including connections to adult learning options, while respecting student choice. The Committee was also informed that the complexity of government policies around foster care aging out remains a challenge, and families and educators are encouraged to advocate through government channels, school administration, and trustees to support systemic change and ensure continuity for vulnerable students.

6. School Reports

The Committee was encouraged to share information about activities, programs or events happening in their school. The Committee received a school report from Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute and St. John's High School to be submitted to the Board of Trustees. The Committee was informed that school reports can also be submitted to the Board and Community Liaison Officer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Chambers
Trustee Representative

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Children of the Earth High School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute High School
Gordon Bell High School
R.B. Russell Vocational High School
St. John's High School
École Secondaire Sisler High School

Regrets

Argyle High School
Collège Churchill High School
Elmwood High School
Grant Park High School
École Secondaire Kelvin High School
Technical Vocational High School
Winnipeg Adult Education Centre

Administration

Shelley Warkentin, Assistant Superintendent
Marsha Missyabit, Divisional Kookum
Ryan Hughes, Assistant Superintendent,
Staff Support and Relations
Aaron Benarroch, Director of Recruitment
and International Education
Joanne Esteban, Staffing Advisor
Whitney Crooks, Program Director of Climate
Justice and Sustainability
David Vo, Administrative Assistant

Trustees

Rebecca Chambers
Ann Evangelista (Regrets)

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute

Student Advisory Meeting Feb.5 :Student Report

September:

- Welcome Week:
 - Had an introduction assembly to new students and a welcome back assembly for returning students.
 - Spent a day filled with events: Scavenger hunt, walking around to check out clubs and meeting teachers (mainly for the new students), and had a BBQ lunch
- Senior events
 - Opening Senior Spirit week
 - Senior Sunrise
- Exchange students mentor group
- Start of DMCI's first Pokemon Club
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Program
- Our Indigenous drum group playing at Canada Life Center

October:

- Halloween Spirit Week
- Halloween Pep Rally
 - Revealed new school and athletics logo
 - Revealed new mascot
 - DMCI clubs and athletic teams running out
- YiP bake-sale
- In school trick or treating

November:

- Remembrance Day Ceremony
 - DMCI Concert Choir & Band performance
 - Indigenous drum group playing

December:

- Winter Spirit Week
- Hug & Mug
- Karaoke Lunch
- Santa and Elves at Wellington

January:

- Exam week
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Future Events:

More Events TBD

February:

- Valentine's Spirit Week
- Valentine's Perfect Pair
- Teddy Grams

- Talent Show
- Spring Gym Riot
- Lip-Sync Battle
- Student Council Elections
- Senior events

Athletics Teams:

- Volleyball
 - Varsity Girls & Boys Senior night
 - Varsity Boys Final game against Sisler on Friday, Nov. 14th. Lost a great game against École Sisler High School.
 - Junior Varsity Boys Final game against Sisler on Thursday, Nov. 13th. Results TBD.

- First grade 9 girls and boys teams of DMCI
- Ultimate Frisbee
 - Participated in Hold Back The Snow tournament hosted by SJR
- Boys Indoor Soccer
 - Made it to Finals
- Indoor Track
- Cross Country
- Post about our Athlete of The Month on our instagram page
- Basketball teams participated in a weekend tournament at Regina

Youth In Philanthropy:

- Halloween bake sale
 - Treats were baked by members and non-members
 - Raised over \$200 in cash, not including card payments. All profits go towards charity (TBD), and club merch.

Other events happening at DMCI:

- African Drum Group
- Indigenous Drum Group
- Ethics Debate club
- Medical
- Exchange Students events



STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL REPORT

401 Church Ave, Winnipeg, MB R2W 1C4
Teacher Representative's email : sparadis@wsd1.org

Report

Successes

- St. John's announced that students in the school can now receive bursaries outside of academic achievement, for example, students can now receive bursaries for artistic and athletic excellence.
- St. John's introduced a three-digit code provided at the back of every student's ID before the second semester to speed up long lines in the cafeteria. Students in the school lunch program can now just give the three-digit code, minimizing the time required for a cashier to input a given student's name in the program.
- The introduction of the Pathways Program into St. John's High School eases grade 12 students worries about university. Pathways has been able to help students navigate the transition into university; whether it be networking or applying for scholarships and or university, Pathways has been very helpful for students who need support to move forward in their educational journey.

Feedback & Reflections (Previous Meeting: November 13, 2025)

- The group was very quiet, but over time, the group developed the confidence to speak up. The hands on activity, where students went into randomized groups and were requested to reflect and response to questions, may have potentially contributed to the rise in engagement in the group, especially as we asked to present our reflections
- It was a good idea to keep meetings held at lunchtime, as often students cannot find transportation to their home during 6:00-7:00 pm. both meetings were held in November and February which occur during months when the sun is or is already beginning to set at an earlier time, having the meeting at 12:00 PM was best practice.

Potential discussions

- Scholarship opportunities
- Internships
- Volunteering opportunities for students
- Finding ways for students to be involved in the community
- Finding ways for students to connect with each other throughout the school division, people who participate in sports are mostly likely the demographic to get involved
- Finding ways for students to be more involved or exposed to educational opportunities