

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, May 8, 2024

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee members 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 AGENDA

Committee members approved the agenda as distributed.

3. NORTH FORGE FABRICATION LAB CONSULTATION

Committee members were informed that WSD has partnered with North Forge to develop a new career lab at R.B. Russell Vocational high school. The career lab will provide opportunity for students and community to learn new technologies, design, create, innovate, and develop mentorships on a variety of projects.

Committee members participated in activities to assist the North Forge group in determining what is important to students as they design and develop the space. Committee members were divided into two groups and asked to design a school without any budgetary restrictions. Group one designed a school that included a multi-cultural food court, additional student lounges with boutique coffee shops, a convenience store where students could also purchase school merchandise as well as a petting zoo and a water park. The second group imagined a school where there would be a quiet/sensory room where students could enjoy a calm space that also appealed to sensory needs. The room would have fidget toys, support animals, noise cancelling headphones, sound proof walls, and adult coloring books. Committee members also suggested adding a coffee shop with baked goods and other beverages, as well as an in-school radio station that would allow students interested in a career in broadcasting to gain experience while providing communication to students about upcoming events.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees is in the process of developing a multi-year strategic plan and is requesting feedback from the District Advisory Committees.

Committee members were informed that feedback provided will play a vital role in helping the Board to identify key priorities, set goals and develop strategies that will guide efforts to enhance educational opportunities, improve outcomes, and promote equity and inclusivity across WSD that is student focused.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, May 8, 2024

- 2 -

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees has been working with a consultant to develop a shared understanding of the strategic planning process, to examine existing data and develop focus, methodology and actions for data gathering. The Board is currently holding multiple sessions for all Advisory Committees to gather feedback and guidance from WSD families. The Board will also be using alternate methods to gather information from all stakeholders including community organizations, staff, and students.

Committee members were informed that once all the feedback has been gathered it will be sent to an external team of researchers who will analyze the data and provide the common themes to the Board. The information will also be shared with stakeholders to ensure their voices have been captured accurately.

Committee members participated in three activities designed to gather information about what learner's currently experience in school, how school has helped their learning and sense of belonging, as well as how school has been harmful to their learning and sense of belonging. Committee members were informed that all data collected will be anonymized and no one will be identified from the data.

Committee members were informed that the feedback will be used to develop a plan with strategies and actions to address the data, guidance and feedback provided, and the completed Strategic Plan will be shared with stakeholders in February 2025. The Strategic Plan will be implemented over the next 3-5 years.

5. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

Student representatives from the following school(s) provided a written report on school activities: (attached)

- Gordon Bell High School

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, May 8, 2024

- 3 -

In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute High School
Gordon Bell High School
Sisler High School
St. John's High School

Administration

Lorelei Bunkowsky, Assistant Superintendent
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Argyle Alternative High School
Children of the Earth High School
College Churchill High School
Elmwood High School
Grant Park School
Kelvin High School
R.B. Russell High School
Tec Voc High School
W.A.E.C.

Trustees

Lois Brothers
Perla Javate

*Student Advisory Committee
Gordon Bell High School Report - May 8, 2024*

Gordon Bell has exciting and fun events coming up as the school year ends. With the weather warming up, a lot of our students have been spending their lunch hours or spares at our Green Space.

Mental Health and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Month

May is a month recognized for Mental Health Awareness and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Month.

April 29th to May 5th is the National Week of Action in honor of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Relatives. On Thursday, May 2nd, students and staff were invited to the greenspace at 12:30pm to walk around the track and tie red ribbons to the fence to raise awareness in the community. There was also an opportunity to smudge. Students and staff were encouraged to wear red, ribbon shirt or skirts in recognition of the day.

We currently have the WSD Healthy Minds Week 2024, which is Mental Health Awareness week from May 6-10. We have Gift Make and Take for Thankful Tuesday, Get Moving for Wellness Wednesday, Graffiti Walk Activity & Inspirational Words Rock Painting for Thoughtful Thursday, and Let's Play for Friendship Friday. There are different activities and resources around Gordon Bell High School to learn more and how to access resources regarding Mental Health.

Fine Arts Department

During the month of March, we had the drama production for Fahrenheit 451. For the first time, we ran 3 nights, where two of which were essentially sold out performances. Students received incredible feedback from their performances with students, staff, and community members talking about it being the best show we have done. Urban Fusion attended Divisional Dance Day (Stepz) during early March. Senior Choir, Junior Choir, and VOX all participated in the Winnipeg Music Festival in March, and they were all awarded Silver for their performances.

During the month of April, all of the auditioned dance teams went to the Canadian National Dance Competition. All of the teams came home with a 1st place trophy. Junior Fusion and Small Crew both received Gold rankings, and Urban Fusion and Ladies Small Group both received High Gold Rankings. Ladies Small Group missed receiving the next level ranking of Elite Gold by 0.8 of a point. The Gordon Bell Junior and Senior Band both had very successful performances at Festivals in April. The Juniors were praised for their work considering that so many were new to their instruments this year, and the Senior Band was commended for their sound and attention to detail, especially as one of the smaller groups that performed. VOX also performed at a Community concert with the Winnipeg Male Chorus and St. Paul's High School on April 20. Our Bands went to the Manitoba Association Band Festival - Juniors at Beginner Band Festival in Winnipeg on April 18. Senior Band to Level One Band Festival to Brandon on April 24.

For the month of May, Gordon Bell is once again hosting the WSD Band Blast on May 9. Grade 7-9 students from across WSD will come together for the day under the direction of Mr. Mark Sawatzky to learn 3 pieces and have a concert at the end of the day to showcase their work. VOX is going to Toronto during May 14th-17th to compete for the Canadian National Music Festival.

For the month of June, the Gordon Bell Mass and will perform the piece Concerto for Pots and Pans at our June 5 concert, which is the Festival of The Arts. This piece will also feature 6 special guests (teachers) playing pots and pans with wooden spoons.

For our Visual Arts program, art students participated in WSD Senior Years Visual Art Celebration at the WAG with artist Goota Ashoona. Art students attended Freeze Frame Film Festival and developed skills around stop motion and green screening. A handful of Gordon Bell art students are chosen for scholarships at the WAG Professional Art Series. Film Screening of The Story of Us: Interviews with Gordon Bell community members. Students interviewed them and animated their stories using stop motion animation with artists Lasha and Joel. Film screening in June with parents, staff, and community members. Mural done in collaboration with Justine Proulx, Métis artist, and Anishinaabe language class to tell a story of Turtle. There are three panels that need to be done on the second floor of the school in Gordon Bell. MMIWG2S banner and art installation on Portage for Day of Action on May 5th. Students are also attending the University of Manitoba's Thesis Art Show.

Athletics

With the Badminton season coming to an end, Gordon Bell students are excited for the opening of the Outdoor Soccer season. A handful of our badminton players have made it to playoffs. Our Varsity and Junior Varsity Soccer teams have been practicing multiple times throughout the week to prepare. Students have been playing with other high schools in the school division and enjoyed it immensely. We are extremely proud and joyful to hear that students enjoyed the season and the teamwork they have shown.

Our Stories Of Hope

The Our Stories Of Hope Gala was held in the Human Rights Museum on April 30th. Family members, teachers, students, and our community members were present to celebrate the resiliency and the vulnerability that the students had the strength to share. The event was heartwarming and successful. The students whos stories were presented had the opportunity to take professional photos and videos for their work, by Technical Vocational Highschool. This project holds hearts together in Gordon High School. We look forward to this annual project, as it gives students their time to share the hardships that they have went through.

Student Council

With the Valentine's Spirit Week being successful, our Student Council committee are now planning our big spring event that will be held at our Greenspace. The last few days of school, they organized egg hunt and minute to win it games to let off students with a smile before Spring Break.

Student Council started planning our big spring event as soon as spring break was over. With the nice weather that we have occurring, they have decided to hold it at our greenspace. During the spirit week, we wil have a condensed school timetable so that teachers will stil have the opportunity for students to catch up on work. The afternoon is when the event will be held. The students have been looking forward to see who will take home the big trophy, because of the competitiveness and tied points tat we have.

United Way

During the beginning of the school year, a handful of students were selected to take part in a project with United Way. The project that they are currently working on tackles the increasing amount of poverty and homelessness in Downtown, Winnipeg. The group dedicated a lot of time and effort to assist RAY in providing needs for youth tackling hopelessness, mental health, and poverty. The care packages that they have created contains hygiene products, feminine hygiene products, brand new underwear and socks, and heartfelt messages from students. Selected students handed out care packages at RAY during May 7th.

They are currently planning a presentation that will be held in our gym, and they will talk about the ongoing issue of poverty, mental health, and homelessness going on in our community. They will provide resources for the students, so that they know who to reach out to, and for them to know that they are not alone.

Grad

Throughout the year, our graduating class have been fundraising and volunteering around the school to prepare for the dinner and dance that will happen at the end of the year. They have been selling coffee on selected Friday mornings, selling pizza during lunch on Mondays, and making smoothies for lunch on Wednesdays.

We are thrilled about how this past school year has gone, about all the notable activities, about educational opportunities, and about how the Gordon Bell community is consistently growing. It is our goal that students throughout the Winnipeg School Division will successfully complete this year and savour the final moments before summer vacation.

Sincerely, and we wish you all the best from the Gordon Bell Student Representatives:

Alecsandra Punzalan - alecsandrap@live.wsd1.org

Shayne Chartrand - shaynec3@live.wsd1.org