

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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. LUNCH/NUTRITION PROGRAMS UPDATE

Katherine Armstrong, Program Director of Nutrition, was in attendance to provide an update on the in-school nutrition program.

Committee members were informed that there are over 30,000 students enrolled in WSD in 78 schools. There are 193 instructional days per year, which equates to approximately 5.79 million meals a year, assuming each school provides one meal per day. Committee members were informed that many schools provide multiple meals per day (breakfast, snacks and lunch) as well as providing take-home meals. Committee members were informed that previously funding for nutrition programs in schools was limited, therefore student participation was also limited, however, with the implementation of the Universal Nutrition program all students are now eligible to participate.

Committee members were informed that prior to the implementation of the Universal Nutrition program, many schools already had established robust food programs. These programs were funded through a patchwork of external grants, volunteers were required to run the programs and there was limited structure, resources or centralized supports available. The Universal Nutrition program was developed to provide structure, resources, and funding to ensure programs are run as efficiently as possible.

The Universal Nutrition program receives funding from the provincial and federal government to employ staff to operate the programs, as well as purchase food and equipment. During the 2024/2025 school year WSD hired approximately 50 food coordinators. Committee members were informed that providing adequate staffing is the biggest challenge for operating the program. The funding provided by the provincial government stipulates that 65% of funding must be spent on food while 35% is allocated for staffing and equipment. WSD is advocating for schools to have autonomy to allocate funding based on the needs of the school.

Committee members were informed that the Nutrition Program is a free program for schools. Committee members were informed that it is a challenge to serve Middle Schools and High School students as there are high enrolment numbers and that every school has different

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, April 29, 2025

- 2 -

needs. Committee members were informed that the Nutrition Program is requesting input and feedback from students to cater to the respective schools. Committee members were informed that WSD is working to ensure accessible nutritious meals are provided to all students.

Committee members stated that students have utilized the Nutrition Program at their schools and the food provided is now healthier. Committee members stated that because of this, there has been an increase of students attending lunch compared to previous years.

Committee members were informed that WSD is looking for feedback to better understand the core values of staff, students, parents and the community to assist in the development of long-term goals for the program. Committee members were asked to provide feedback on the following questions: what impact do you see this program having 5, 10 years from now? What does an accountable and transparent program look like to you? What do you value in a school food program? What voices might not be heard that we should know about? Feedback can be submitted to wsdnutritionprogram@wsd1.org.

3. STUDENT DISCUSSIONS

Committee members held round table discussions on the following topics: Cafeteria Maintenance & Upgrades, International Baccalaureate Program / Advance Placement Program, Music Instruments, Clubs, and Field Trips.

Committee members stated they would like to see more variety and healthy options for the free lunch program and for snacks to be made available throughout the day. Committee member stated they would like a space to provide student input and feedback to assist in guiding the Nutrition Program at their school. Committee members were encouraged to submit questions and suggestions to wsdnutritionprogram@wsd1.org so that conversations and planning can start to ensure that student needs are met.

Committee members stated they would like to see the students at their schools have the option to sign up for International Baccalaureate Program or Advance Placement Program. Committee members stated that this will prepare them better for University Entrance requirements if they want to pursue that path.

Committee members stated that they would like to see additional programs related to arts programming in music as there are numbers of talented students. Committee members are requesting additional funding for upgrades to their instruments and equipment.

Committee members stated that they would like more Arts related club activities or programming such as Drama, Dance, and Visual Arts. Committee members stated they would like more Sewing club activities. Committee members were informed that they can talk to the administration to advocate for programming to meet student needs.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that administration will look into the possibility of schools offering graduation trips to students.

4. GUIDELINES FOR BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE SURVEY

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held February 12, 2025, the Board of Trustees reviewed the feedback from District Advisory Committees regarding the revised Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees. The Trustees agreed that additional feedback was required.

Committee members received a copy of a survey to identify some key priorities regarding the role and structure of District Advisory Committees to make meetings more inclusive for students.

Committee members agreed that the noon hour meetings are preferred as they are easier to make arrangements for attendance. Committee members requested that meeting dates be provided for the entire school year to ensure students and teachers are able to arrange the time and transportation.

Committee members were encouraged to share the survey with their school communities and to provide feedback to the Board by June 2, 2025, for consideration. The Committee was informed that surveys can be emailed to Board@wsd1.org.

5. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- NIL

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, April 29, 2025

- 4 -

In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Collège Churchill High School
Elmwood High School
R.B. Russell High School
Sisler High School

Regrets

Andrew Mynarski V.C. School
Argyle Alternative High School
Children of the Earth High School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute High School
Gordon Bell High School
Grant Park School
Hugh John Macdonald
Kelvin High School
St. John's High School
Tec Voc High School
W.A.E.C.

Administration

Shelley Warkentin, Assistant Superintendent
Katherine Armstrong
David Vo, Recording Secretary

Trustees

Lois Brothers
Rebecca Chambers
Ann Evangelista