

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, November 28

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. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Committee members were informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees held on September 16, 2024, Trustee Lois Brothers was appointed as the Board's representative, and Trustee Rebecca Chambers was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee. Trustee Dante Aviso was in attendance.

Trustee Brothers chaired the meeting.

3. GUIDELINES FOR BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees approved a motion to revise the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees. The revisions include transitioning to an Elementary, Middle Years and Senior Years meeting structure, Division-wide membership, appointment of a Trustee to serve as chair, removing quorum requirements, and moving from voting to a consensus-based decision-making process.

Committee members received a copy of the revised Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees for review and to provide feedback to the Board of Trustees via board@wsd1.org no later than December 20, 2024. Committee members were informed that if members require clarification on the Guidelines, they may contact Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer at brlapointe@wsd1.org.

4. 2025/2026 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Committee members were informed that the Province of Manitoba has confirmed that a new funding model will be provided to school divisions in the development of the 2025/2026 budget. The new formula will not be available to school boards until the funding announcement has been made.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees will also be distributing a survey to all WSD families which will assist in the development of the draft budget.

Committee members suggested increasing the budget for sports equipment and jerseys as well as transportation to games. Committee members also discussed updating technology to ensure everyone has access to a personal device, increasing the number of teachers

and course availability and ensuring that courses are available to meet the needs of all students (i.e. pre-calculus, applied and essential math). Committee members suggested updating classroom furniture, increasing the number of water-bottle filling stations, and ensuring adequate classroom space for popular courses.

Committee members discussed the need for inexpensive meal options in the cafeteria. Committee members were informed that the government is launching a universal nutrition program, the program is focused on elementary students but will be moving to the middle and senior years as well to provide high quality lunch options. Committee members also discussed safety concerns at schools where construction limits access to the schools.

In preparation of the budget announcement, the Board is inviting families to provide feedback to the Board no later than December 15th, 2024, on the following questions: If we had unlimited resources, what would you prioritize in the upcoming budget? What are your top three priorities for the upcoming budget given that resources are not unlimited? What initiatives or programs/supports should we enhance? Or what should we move away from?

5. STRATEGIC PLAN VERIFICATION OF DATA

Committee members were informed that during the 2023/2024 school year, numerous meetings were held to gather feedback from the WSD community to assist in the development of the Strategic Plan. The feedback received will play a vital role in helping to identify key priorities, set goals and develop strategies that will guide WSD efforts to enhance education opportunities, improve student outcomes and promote equity and inclusivity across WSD.

Over the summer months, the feedback was collected and collated by the Critical Thinking Consortium for presentation to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting for their review and consideration.

Prior to presenting the report, it was agreed that as part of the second phase of the development of the Strategic Plan, the information would be shared with those individuals who were interested in providing input on how their feedback was captured and reflected in the findings.

Committee members were asked to contact brlapointe@wsd1.org no later than December 20, 2024, if the data does not reflect/capture the feedback provided. Committee members were also reminded that the purpose is to ensure accurate information was collected, not to provide new or additional feedback.

6. WARD BOUNDARIES

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held October 16, 2023, the members of the Board adopted a motion to establish a Ward Boundaries Review Committee to review the results of the 2022 election to ensure the boundaries met the requirements outlined in the Public Schools Act. The Public Schools Act states that each trustee of a school division divided into wards shall represent, in so far as it is practicable, approximately the same number of electors in the Division by the total number of trustees.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees is in the process of reviewing the 2020 election results and boundaries to determine the need and identify options for consideration of redrawing the boundaries with the least impact to meet legislation requirements.

7. FUNDRAISING IN SCHOOLS

Committee members were informed that the members of the Board will be reviewing Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools in the near future.

Committee members were informed that in accordance with Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools, the Division recognizes that schools may wish to supplement their school budgets in support of student activities and charitable causes. However, it is important that fundraising does not occur for materials already funded by the provincial government.

Committee members were informed that fundraising can continue, but to be mindful of what the funds are being used for and to meet with school administration to discuss alternate funding options prior to launching a fundraiser.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Committee members were encouraged to submit any topics or items for information or discussion they would like to see on future agendas. Committee members were informed that they can submit any agenda items to board@wsd1.org, for consideration.

9. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- NIL

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute High School
Gordon Bell High School
Sisler High School

Administration

Matt Henderson, 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
St. John's High School
Tec Voc High School
W.A.E.C.

Trustees

Lois Brothers
Dante Aviso
Rebecca Chambers (regrets)