

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2023

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 21, 2023

The Student Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples of Canada

The Committee was informed that the meeting of the Student Advisory Committee meeting is taking place on Treaty One land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Metis.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda of February 21, 2023, as distributed.

3. 2023/2024 Draft Budget

The Committee received a copy of the 2023/2024 Draft Budget for review. The Committee was informed provincial funding has increased in the amount of \$8,314,777 or 4.1%. The Committee was encouraged to share priorities to be considered by the Board of Trustees to be added to the 2023/2024 Budget.

The Committee suggested that the infographic should provide a detailed breakdown of funding under each category Regular Instruction, Student Support Services, Community education and services, as well as Instructional and other support services to achieve a better understanding of expenditures. The Board of Trustees is recommending a budget that maintains programs and allows for additional supports for students in bilingual language programs, transportation, student support services and educational assistants. The Committee was also informed that the Province of Manitoba established a consultant team to guide the development of a new education funding model which was to be implemented for the 2023/2024 school year. The Province announced that the new funding model required more consultation and will not be implemented for the 2023/2024 school year. The Committee was informed funding is based on student enrollment. The Committee was informed that the provincial government will be meeting with all school divisions in the future to discuss the new funding model in preparation of next year.

The Committee recommended the enrollment and allocation formula be shared at the next meeting. The Committee was informed that at the end of September, the number of students in class determines the funding for the next year. In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that decreased enrollment is due to the pandemic and students being home schooled or choosing to do remote/online learning.

The Committee raised concerns regarding food services at schools, specifically proper nutritional options. The Committee agreed that there are different circumstances for schools and that setting goals for how money should be spent for each school is the best decision to discuss with the student council.

The Committee expressed concerns about the shortage of substitute teachers. The Committee suggested that funding be allocated towards hiring more substitute teachers. The Committee was informed that WSD has to be mindful of sustainability and to think about existing programs that need to be enhanced at this point in time.

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The Committee recommended hiring more Indigenous teachers and making Indigenous courses mandatory in high schools. The Committee agreed that it would make a difference on students being able to understand an Indigenous perspective and to understand reconciliation. The Committee was informed that the new Provincial Framework, Global Competency, has Indigenous studies embedded throughout it. The Committee was also informed that Indigenous studies is also being imbedded in ELA, Math and Social Studies.

In response to an enquiry regarding school funding for sports, the Committee was informed that sport teams receive donations from alumni and school budgets.

4. Technology In Schools

At a previous meeting, the Committee recommended that the Technology In Schools policy be reviewed to allow the use of cellphones and electronic devices in class. The Committee received a copy of the Policy JFCBA – Responsible use of Technology and Social Media for review. A student representative enquired about the dates on the policy and who reviews the Policy JFCBA – Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees reviews all policies and each policy notes the last revision date.

A student representative raised concerns regarding social media accounts for classroom/Division or school based matters and who to notify if a teacher messages a student on their personal social media account. The Committee was informed that students should bring the concern to the principal. The Committee expressed concerns that teachers are posting classroom and students photos on social media. The Committee was informed that there is a registration form every year that includes consent for social media. The Committee was also informed that there are boundaries of using divisional technology to communicate as opposed to just having conversations on personal social media accounts and that the policy is not just for WSD, but also Manitoba Teachers Society recommends and promotes Respect In School training for staff as well.

A student representative expressed concerns about access to websites such as Survey Monkey. The Committee was informed that the Division's firewall sometimes prevents access to websites, however, teachers are able to notify Information Technology to request access.

The Committee agreed to add Policy JFCBA – Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media to the next agenda for discussion.

5. Mental Health

The Committee agreed to review the links provided on Mental Health and continue discussions at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Brothers
Trustee Representative

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

College Churchill High School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute High School
Gordon Bell High School
Kelvin High School
Tec. Voc. High School

Administration

Jon Olafson, Acting Director
Michelle Lejano, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Argyle Alternative High School
Children of the Earth High School
Elmwood High School
Grant Park School
Hugh John MacDonald School
R.B. Russell High School
Sisler High School
St. John's High School
W.A.E.C.

Trustees

Lois Brothers
Perla Javate
Ann Evangelista