

# THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

## STUDENT DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 21, 2023

#### 1. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA**

Committee members were informed that the meeting of the Student District Advisory Committee is taking place on Treaty One Land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Métis.

#### 2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

#### 3. **2023/2024 DRAFT BUDGET**

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

Committee members 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. Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed funding is based on student enrollment. Committee members were 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.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the formula for provincial funding is based on the number of students enrolled in WSD. Committee members recommended the enrollment and allocation formula be shared at the next meeting. Committee members were 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, Committee members were informed that decreased enrollment is due to the pandemic and students being home schooled or choosing to do remote/online learning.

Committee members raised concerns regarding food services at schools, specifically proper nutritional options. Committee members 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.

Committee members expressed concerns about the shortage of substitute teachers. Committee members suggested that funding be allocated towards hiring more substitute teachers. Committee members were 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.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 21, 2023

- 2 -

---

Committee members recommended hiring more Indigenous teachers and making Indigenous courses mandatory in high schools. Committee members agreed that it would make a difference on students being able to understand an Indigenous perspective and to understand reconciliation. Committee members were informed that the new Provincial Framework, Global Competency, has Indigenous studies embedded throughout it. Committee members were 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, Committee members were informed that sport teams receive donations from alumni and school budgets.

#### **4. TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS**

At a previous meeting, Committee members recommended that the Technology In Schools policy be reviewed to allow the use of cellphones and electronic devices in class. Committee members 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. Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that students should bring the concern to the principal. Committee members expressed concerns that teachers are posting classroom and students photos on social media. Committee members were informed that there is a registration form every year that includes consent for social media. Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that the Division's firewall sometimes prevents access to websites, however, teachers are able to notify Information Technology to request access.

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

#### **5. MENTAL HEALTH**

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

#### **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Committee members agreed to add the following topics to the next agenda for discussion:

- Classroom cap size;
- Schools of choice;
- Funding of schools;
- International Baccalaureate/Advanced Placement programs;

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 21, 2023

- 3 -

---

- Funding for extra curriculars activities;
- Retaining/hiring substitute teachers
- Refugee support.

**7. ENQUIRES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS**

SCHOOL REPORTS

Parent representatives from the following schools provided a written report on school activities: (attached)

- Gordon Bell High School

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Committee members were informed the next Student District Advisory Committee meeting will be held in May (T.B.D.) to continue discussions on the Technology In Schools, Mental Health and Future Agenda Items.

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

Student Advisory Committee  
Gordon Bell School Report - For meeting on February 21, 2023

Halfway through the 2022-2023 running school year and since November, the students of Gordon Bell have had a plethora of events and opportunities to engage in. Though the weather has been cold, the community that Gordon Bell offers has kept our hearts warm.

Fine Arts Department:

Our fine arts department has been very active recently with many preparations for upcoming performances. Our choral ensembles, dance teams, and band had a very successful end of year winter concert. They all performed well, sharing their joy for the arts and the hard work they put into preparing for this concert. In January, Gordon Bell's audition vocal jazz group, VOX, got the opportunity to participate in WSD's Honour Choir. The group members immensely enjoyed meeting and singing with other students around the division who share the same passion. This year, our school is putting together a drama production of *The Fall of the House of Usher*. The students who partake in this have been rehearsing diligently and are looking forward to showcasing it this coming March.

Gordon Bell's Senior and Junior high choir continues to meet and rehearse several choir pieces to prepare for their performances and participation in Winnipeg Music Festival, which will take place on March 10.

Gordon Bell's dance groups (Urban Fusion, Junior Fusion, Ladies' Small Group, and Men's Dance Crew) continue to meet and rehearse all of their choreographies to prepare to perform and participate in CNDC (Canadian National Dance Championships), which will take place by the end of April. The teams are excited to participate and are working hard on their dance pieces.

Athletics:

Athletics at Gordon Bell has gotten our school spirit up. Our basketball teams have been playing proficiently and it is evident the close bond the team members have with each other. We hope as the basketball season starts to come to a close, that their last few games will be memorable and enjoyable.

Our Stories of Hope Project:

OSOH is a yearly project that allows students within Gordon Bell to have artistic freedom to convey a story from their life that centers around the idea of hope and resilience. This can include stories of grief/loss, family, childhood, a turning point in one's life, and more. Students are able to portray their stories to many different mediums, like art, storytelling, poetry, through a dance or song, all represented through a video. Every year, a select group of students are given the chance to participate in this project, this includes the Grade 10s and 12s, our EAL students, Inclusive Ed students, and Off-Campus students. The deadline to submit for this project is the beginning of March. Winners will be selected by the end of

April, and cash prizes will be given to the people who've won. This project is one that we look forward to being showcased and have it be a meaningful experience of reflection and resilience.

Student Council:

Gordon Bell's student council started the new year off with preparations for new events in regards to Valentine's day. Leading up to the event, the student council planned on organizing a spirit week and providing activities for the students of Gordon Bell to do. Before the week of Valentine's day, the student council advertised selling candy grams that allowed students to send sweets and treats to anyone in the school, whether it be teachers or friends. The council also had students complete a Matchomatics quiz, a compatibility test to see who they're most compatible with within the school. When the actual spirit week took place, students dressed up for each school day to earn points to contribute to their grade's year-round tally towards the school's grade wars events. From Monday, Feb 13 to Wednesday, Feb 15, the council also sold the results for Matchomatics, and on Valentine's day was when members of the council sent out and delivered the grams to recipients.

The next step for Gordon Bell's student council is to prepare for another spirit week that will take place a week before spring break starts, and possibly organize an afternoon event on the last day of school before the break.

Grad:

The graduates of Gordon Bell recently had a grad meeting that focused on different reminders for students who seek information regarding useful events and opportunities they may need. The grad meeting talked about the upcoming open-houses of universities and colleges that the grade 12s of Gordon Bell are interested in attending. Information about fundraising was also brought up; how much the graduates earned during the last time they fundraised, and when they can fundraise again to contribute to their dinner and dance costs. They have also been given the option to go Dress and Suit shopping assisted by the school to help prepare for their outfits during the dinner and dance event at the end of the year. The graduates are savoring their last couple months of high school and are taking steps to ensure their graduation will be memorable.

These past couple of months for Gordon Bell have been lively and enjoyable. As the weather starts to warm up more and students adjust to their second semester courses, we are excited for all of the upcoming events and opportunities for the students of Gordon Bell. In addition to the community of Gordon Bell to continue growing together and celebrating each other's accomplishments.

Sincerely, Gordon Bell Student Representatives:

Erika Lengsavath

JC Schenkeveld

Dynisty Nepinak

Julian Del Campo Buckler

Contacts:

[erikal2@live.wsd1.org](mailto:erikal2@live.wsd1.org)

[jcg@live.wsd1.org](mailto:jcg@live.wsd1.org)

[dynistyn@live.wsd1.org](mailto:dynistyn@live.wsd1.org)

[Juliand1@live.wsd1.org](mailto:Juliand1@live.wsd1.org)