

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

STUDENT DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, December 7, 2022

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. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Committee members were informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board of Trustees held on November 7, 2022, Trustee Lois Brothers was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Perla Javate was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

A student representative from College Churchill High School volunteered to Chair the meeting.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Committee members approved the agenda of December 7, 2022, as distributed.

4. **GUIDELINES FOR BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Committee members received a copy of the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees for review.

Committee members were informed that the Guidelines have been developed to assist advisory committees in their deliberations and to provide consistency in meeting and reporting procedures.

Committee members were informed that Advisory Committees may make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Committee members were informed that in order to make recommendations a quorum must be in attendance at the meeting and a majority of the voting members who are present (1/2+1) at the meeting must agree on the recommendation.

Committee members were informed that two designated student representative may vote on behalf of their respective school. Alternate representatives may only vote in the absences of the designated representative.

Committee members were informed that Advisory Committees are not permitted to have delegations from the public, however delegations may be received by the Board at regular meetings. Advisory Committees should not discuss personnel matters or individual student concerns and should instead refer any of these issues to the school principal or Superintendent of Education Services.

Committee members were informed that motions presented should be moved and seconded before being discussed to ensure that more than one person is interested in the topic. The Chair should confirm the name of the mover and the seconder for Committee members.

5. WSD 2023/2024 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Committee members received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2023/2024 school year.

Committee members were informed that on March 15, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a budget for the 2022/2023 school year in the amount of \$437,118,200, which included \$13,217,517 in one-time funding and \$525,358 from accumulated surplus to offset a budgeted deficit. Committee members were informed that the baseline funding decreased by 1.3 percent (or \$2,325,238) and property tax levies for education remain frozen at 2020 levels.

Committee members were informed that on November 18, 2021, the Province of Manitoba announced the creation of a consultant team to guide the development of a new education funding model.

Committee members were informed that the Province stated that the new funding model is expected to be implemented by school boards for the 2023/2024 school year.

Committee members were informed that once the new funding formula is announced by the Province, information will be shared with District Advisory Committees.

6. MANITOBA EDUCATION: EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING'S REPORT OF THE STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL 2021/2022

Committee members were informed that in March 2021, in response to recommendations from Manitoba's Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning launched the Provincial Student Advisory Council.

Committee members were informed that the Student Advisory Council was created as a priority action plan in Manitoba's K to 12 Education Action Plan, which will allow students to contribute their voice in shaping the education system in Manitoba.

Committee members were informed that on October 5, 2022, the Province of Manitoba released the first annual report of their Student Advisory Council.

Committee members were informed that the Student Advisory Council consisted of 30 students (aged 14 to 18) with diverse interests, identities, backgrounds, and perspectives from across Manitoba. Committee members were also informed that the role of the council members was to provide its experience, insights and advice on current and emerging issues and topics relevant to Kindergarten to Grade 12 students and the education system.

Committee members were informed that the Student Advisory Council participated in nine engagements, covering topics such as poverty and education, mental health and well-being, curriculum and assessment, student presence and attendance, Manitoba's K to 12 Education Action Plan and virtual and in-person discussions with the minister.

Committee members were informed that the annual report outlines how members:

- participated in discussions and consultations to provide input on various aspects of the education system;
- brought insights to the department to help inform its work; and
- provided feedback on department projects and worked collaboratively with fellow council members to provide input into education-related projects and initiatives.

Committee members reviewed the attached copy of the 2021/2022 Student Advisory Council annual report for their information.

7. RENAMING OF SCHOOLS

Committee members were informed that during the 2021/2022 school year, the Board of Trustees approved a motion to review all schools named after individuals:

- a) With a history:
 - Of actions that are not in accordance with WSD values of inclusiveness, diversity, reconciliation and respect for the rights and human dignity of others;
 - Of actions that are discriminatory and not in accordance with the principle of Human Rights as identified in the Manitoba Human Rights Code, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- b) That schools, parent councils, families, community members and organizations be invited to submit recommendations and/or feedback to the Board of Trustees regarding schools named after individuals;
- c) That public recommendations and the result of the review be presented to the Building/Transportation Committee for consideration of renaming of schools.

Committee members were informed that all schools, parent councils, families, community members and organizations were invited to submit recommendations and/or feedback to the Board of Trustees regarding the names of schools.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees reviewed the renaming process to ensure that criteria and process to request consideration for renaming a school. Committee members were informed that the process for renaming may be initiated in response to a request from staff, students, parent councils, community members or a member of the Board of Trustees. Committee members were informed that all requests must be submitted in writing to the Board including contact information, a rationale including evidence/supporting documentation for the renaming of the school.

Committee members were informed that requests to begin the process to rename a school may also be initiated by the Board of Trustees or in response to a request from staff, students, parent councils or community members.

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Committee members were informed that all requests should include:

- a) The contact information of the community member requesting the review;
- b) A narrative explaining the basis for the request;
- c) The actions of the namesake that are not in accordance with WSD values as well as the sources and strength of evidence of the actions;
- d) The harm the continued use of the name may inflict on Winnipeg School Division and its community;
- e) Attachments should be included to support the renaming request.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees will refer the request to the Building/Transportation Committee for review and consideration.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A student representative from Kelvin High School expressed concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on the mental health and wellbeing of students resulting in anxiety, depression, feeling of loneliness or isolation. The student representative from Daniel McIntyre Collegiate High School added that mental health is being discussed in schools, however, more resources are required to support students in schools. Student representatives recommended that a guidance counsellor who is particularly trained in trauma or a therapist and psychologist would support students on a regular basis. In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the impact of mental health due to COVID-19 be added to the next agenda for discussion. Committee members agreed to discuss concerns with their respective principals and recommended a mental health day for students to participate in addressing mental health concerns.

A student representative from Kelvin High School recommended that a policy be reviewed to allow cellphone use and bringing electronic devices in school would help students be more engaged academically, enhancing knowledge-retention and communication, as well as accommodating multiple learning styles for students. A student representative from Technical Vocational High School also expressed concerns about not having access to wi-fi in which they are not able to complete their school work. The Committee agreed to add wifi to the next agenda for discussion. A student representative from Daniel McIntyre Collegiate High School recommended that more resources be provided to students regarding volunteer opportunities, open houses and university courses. A student representative from Elmwood High School expressed concerns that MAYET and other programs are not being updated consistently with student identity information.

Trustee Brothers encouraged student representatives to discuss multimedia use, wi-fi concerns and preferred names with their respective teachers and principals. Committee members were also encouraged to reach out to their career advisor and/or guidance counsellor regarding career education and mental health.

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Student representatives shared the following topics for future discussions:

- More school programs for students such as grad committees, student advisory or the ability to start a group/team and activities in which can give student independency and possibly earn a credit for it;
- A quiet place for students to study during spares besides the library and cafeteria;
- A website or social media in which different WSD schools can communicate and update regularly on what is happening in their schools;
- Clarification on school dances and why some schools are able to have school dances and others are not.

Committee members were informed that teachers are responsible and required to supervise those programs and activities. Student representatives were encouraged to reach out to their respective principals regarding implementing school programs in their schools. Committee members were also informed that you can find information of different schools on the WSD website and other social media such as Instagram.

9. 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
- Elmwood High School

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Committee members were informed the next Student District Advisory Committee meeting will be held next year (T.B.D.) to continue discussions on the WSD 2023/2024 Budget Consultation and Future Agenda Items.

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In Attendance:

Voting Representatives

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

Administration

Ryan Hughes, Acting Director
Jonathan Fast, Vice-Principal, Gordon Bell High School
Michelle Lejano, Recording Secretary

Regrets

Argyle Alternative High School
Children of the Earth High School
Grant Park School
R.B. Russell 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 December 7th, 2022

Four months into this school year, and many exciting opportunities and before COVID-19 pandemic activities have returned for the students of Gordon Bell, and with them, have brought much joy to the students, teachers, and staff.

Fine Arts Department:

This year is the first year since the pandemic that the fine arts department has been able to proceed with their annual schedule of performances without restrictions such as mask wearing. Choir ensembles, Senior Choir and Junior Choir, collaborated with each other to perform two songs at Gordon Bell's first in-person Remembrance Assembly since 2019. Our gr. 9-12 dance team, Urban Fusion also performed a contemporary piece that was quite moving. Senior choir and vocal jazz group VOX, got to participate in Manitoba Choral Association's (MCA) Choral fest. A two week choral festival in November, that allows choir groups to perform and work with adjudicators. The choir groups left enlightened and with knowledge to further enhance their sound and deepen their love for singing. Now our performing arts ensembles are preparing and looking forward to an in-person winter concert to spread joy and display their hard work thus far. Visual art students are finally able to witness the art of many inspirational creators with their first trips to famous art galleries since the pandemic hit. Students are able to see the creations of many talented artists and get motivation and ideas for themselves.

Athletics:

The athletics scene at Gordon Bell among the students is prevalent with coming together and having fun. Our Varsity Girls Volleyball team enjoyed their playing season. Continuing through the season consistently supporting each other and making the best of any game no matter the outcome. Now, basketball season is in session, and we look forward to seeing the joy, excitement, and diligence to learn new things, among our junior and varsity teams.

Indigenous opportunities:

Gordon Bell encourages their Indigenous students and allies to be involved in Indigenous cultural affairs in order to teach the youth of important knowledge and wisdom of teachings. Indigenous Youth Leadership have already gone on their second trip on December 1st to learn about historical Metis sites and Manitoba founder Louis Riel. It was an insightful trip that allowed students to learn more about the history of the Metis in Manitoba. Circle of Sisters have started too, the main focus is to teach our young Indigenous girls the meaning behind sisterhood and to connect them to their cultural heritage.

Student Council:

Our Student Council is ever hard working to provide the students of Gordon Bell with exciting events and activities such as spirit week. They had a successful number of participants during their fall spirit week, prompting students to dress up in their halloween costumes, something from their parent's closet, and much more. As we are in the few weeks before school closes for winter break, the Student Council is preparing for a week of festivities, including the possibility of our school's first Winter Hullabaloo we'll have since pre-pandemic. Alongside in-school activities, a few members of the student council, alongside other students, have also volunteered to be a part of the Westminster's Children's Christmas Sale, a small market organized at the Westminster United Church on December 3rd. The sale is organized by people in the community offering very affordable prices of items for children who want to buy gifts and want to partake in the spirit of giving. The student council's task was to provide the most support that they can give to the sale, which involves guiding small kids in the church, wrapping gifts for the items that the children bought, and serving coffee. A selected handful of student council members are also given the opportunity to work on a project alongside United Way to tackle one of the issues that the organization focuses on. Currently, the group is in their development stage and are currently working on proposing their plan. So far, they have been able to brainstorm ideas for their initiative, and continue to take steps forward. This year has truly been a year for new experiences for the school, and we hope that we are given more opportunities like these for many students to experience in the future.

Grad:

Grads have been preparing for their end of year celebrations and ceremonies. The Grade 12's are responsible to fundraise and help contribute to some of their events throughout the year and partnered up with many organizations to sell items to community members, like cheese, coffee, honey products, and more. The school had also come up with a new idea and set up a holiday market to help out with the cause for the grads of 2023 during the middle of November. The purpose of this market was to also help promote many local businesses and vendors within the community and included a variety of sellers showing their products in our school for a day. It really showed the spirit of our community as we got closer into the season of the holidays. The event was very successful, and created a lot of support and involvement in the school's community, and the community in general. We look forward to new experiences like these for future graduates of the school as well.

These past several months have been filled with an abundance of activities and events for the students. As each month passes, we continue to experience more fresh and brand new opportunities and we can't wait to expect more in years to come. Though maybe not said daily, the students are appreciative of getting these opportunities and are grateful for the close community Gordon Bell has to offer. We look forward to the upcoming months after the winter break, and hope everyone will stay healthy and take care of themselves.

Gordon Bell Student Representatives
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JC Schenkeveld

Dynisty Nepinak

Julian Del Campo Buckler

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Student Advisory Report – November 2022

A lot of good things have gone on in the first term:

Academics:

- Two students took part in a three-school Polar Bear Study at the Churchill Northern Research Station from October 31 - November 4. Funding from the U of M, the Division and the EHS Legacy Fund was appreciated.
- The Elmwood Supply Company, an entrepreneurship program has connected well with alumni and hosted a Community Showcase on November 5. Funding from the Teacher's Idea Fund, the EHS Legacy Fund, the Winnipeg Foundation and the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC) is greatly appreciated.
- The Canadian Academy of Travel and Tourism students have gone Yurt Camping where they learned from an elder on the land, navigated the Amazing Corn Maze/Haunted Forest, volunteered at the MCC Thriftshop, and supported the Middle Years Family Barbeque. The Grade 10 CATT students will be completing the Global Travel and Tourism Partnership's "Passport to the World - an intro to tourism" and the Grade 12s will be completing their Food Handling Certificates through the Youth Employment Services Office.
- The tours to the Manitoba Trades and Building Institute have been a great success.
- The Grade 9 Take Your Kids To Work Day was a great success especially with the field trips developed for students without job sites to visit.
- Students will be attending Fort Whyte Alive's Sustainability Day on November 24.
- The Paul Martin KPMG Mentoring Program for Indigenous students will be returning.
- Students attended Moving from Eco-Anxiety to Action Workshop at the U of W.
- Students attended the Sustainability Day at Fort Whyte.
- Two students and a teacher attended the Welding sessions at R. B. Russel on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in November. The result was a metal fire pit for the school.
- First Book Canada has teamed up with the RBC Foundation to host a series of virtual reading celebration events this year which we are calling the RBC Stories of Empowerment Series. The Program is intended to provide an opportunity for grade 12 students to hear from a true master of their craft in the field of literature, education, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and so on. They also provide \$1500 in free books.

Support:

- We are pleased to announce that the Provincial Teachers' Idea Fund will be supporting our Wahkohtowin Project – A major goal of the project is to provide cultural opportunities for students to reclaim identity and find a sense of belonging.
- The Elmwood Cooking Club is underway and funding from the CNRC is appreciated.
- The Daily Fresh Fruit Program is well used by students and funding from the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba is appreciated.
- The Division funding of our Breakfast and the Food for Families programs are appreciated.
- We have received a President's Choice grant to fund an additional food program.

Athletics:

- One student represented us at the Cross-Country Provincials and many athletes had Top 10 finishes in the WSD races.
- The football team improved over the season with the hard work put in from August to late October.

- The Middle Years Flag Football team competed well in the multi-school tournament.
- We have eight volleyball teams underway with play-off action just around the corner.
- Basketball and Indoor Soccer are underway and Indoor Track & Field will be starting in the near future.

The Arts:

- We are hosting three bands and two jazz bands
- Choir, guitar and piano are underway
- The high energy Drumline is back
- We will be hosting a school production in the spring
- We will be taking part in Poetry In Voice once again
- Thirty students attended the RWB's Handmaids' Tale presentation
- Our Jazz Band Students represented us well at the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra's workshop at Garden City Collegiate. Two of our musicians "sat in" with the WJO.

We will be hosting:

- The WSD Jr. High Volleyball Play-Off Tournament on November 14
- We are hosting the Division Honour Band rehearsals on January 12 & 13
- A provincial Wrestling Tournament on January 14
- A JV Girls Basketball Tournament on Feb. 3 & 4
- A JV Boys and Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament on February 9, 10 & 11