

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.

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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