

**FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2019**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 27, 2019

The French Immersion Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. Election of Committee Chair**

The Committee was informed that at a Board meeting, Trustee Jaime Dumont was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Linda Schatkowsky was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from École Lansdowne volunteered to Chair the French Immersion Advisory Committee meeting.

**2. French Immersion Teacher Recruitment**

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees will receive a notice of motion on December 2, 2019, regarding French Immersion programs in the Division.

The Committee was informed that the motion will request a five year analysis on student enrollment in French Immersion Programs per grade/per school; including students who chose to exit the French Immersion program and transition to the International Baccalaureate and the Advanced Placement Programs, which are not currently offered in French Immersion

The Committee was informed that the motion will provide an analysis on the feasibility of offering the French Immersion International Baccalaureate and/or Advanced Placement Programming to students.

The Committee was informed that the motion will also provide an analysis of retention and teacher recruitment strategies for French Immersion programs, including the resources and financial requirements to establish a Build From Within Teacher Development Program for French Immersion teachers as a means to enhance recruitment and retention and to encourage the development of French Immersion teachers.

The Committee was informed that a few years ago, in anticipation to a French Immersion teacher shortage, the Board of Trustees added 10 French Immersion teaching positions to the budget. The Committee was informed that recruiting teachers is always a challenge and the Recruitment Committee will be attending job fairs again this year in order to recruit additional teachers.

A Committee member expressed concern on the amount of teachers the French Immersion program has lost this year and that the program now has newer teachers and that these teachers do not have the mentorship experience. The Committee was informed that the positions have been filled and are filled on an as needed basis.

The Committee was informed that an additional challenge to recruiting and retention is the provincial wage freeze, which leads to qualified teachers moving out of the province.

The Committee agreed to present the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees for consideration:

**Recommendation:**

*That the Board of Trustees develop a multi-year Strategic Plan for French Immersion Education in WSD.*

### **3. Dual Track vs Milieu Schools**

The Committee continued their discussions on dual track versus milieu schools. The Committee was informed that WSD has the highest number of schools (17) in Manitoba that offer French Immersion Programs. The programs are offered in milieu and dual track settings. The Committee discussed the challenges of recruiting not only administrators but also teachers, EAs, custodians and clerks as well for both learning environments. The Committee was informed that specifically, schools with dual track settings are required to have bilingual administrators. The Committee was informed that each dual track school in WSD has a bilingual principal or vice-principal. The Committee was informed that in a milieu setting, the French Immersion Program is the only program in the school and immersion begins at the Nursery, Kindergarten or Grade 1 level. The school strives for a total French environment, where students are engaged in the language throughout the school day.

The Committee was informed that although in the milieu setting, students are in a complete all day French setting which leads to fluency, there is no significant difference in provincial results in milieu or dual track settings.

The Committee was informed that in 2017 there had been an informal review of the French Immersion program in WSD. The Committee was informed that after the review the Division focused on recruitment and enrichment for all the French Immersion programs throughout the Division.

The Committee was informed that student enrolment and community needs are deciding factors where milieu schools are established within the Division.

### **4. French Immersion Enrolment Update**

The Committee was informed that there has been a steady increase in enrolment in French Immersion programs over the past several years.

### **5. WSD 2020/2021 Budget Consultation**

The Committee received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2020/2021 school year.

The Committee was informed the Board is committed to obtain feedback from school communities, parent councils, residents and staff groups for the 2020/2021 school budget. The District Advisory meetings will provide parent representatives with an opportunity to share feedback, ideas and questions with the trustees in their local area.

The Committee was informed that it is anticipated that the Provincial funding announcement will be made in late January/early February. Once the announcement is received, the Finance/Personnel Committee of the Board will prepare final recommendations for approval by the Board of Trustees. Budget information will be distributed to all schools, parent councils, student councils, advisory committees, employee groups and others on request, and posted on Division's website.

The Committee was informed that District Advisory Committee meetings will be scheduled in February to provide an opportunity for dialogue and discussion about the draft budget. A Public Meeting regarding the draft budget will be held on February 24, 2020. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 2, 2020. All feedback will be considered by Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 9, 2020. The Board must finalize the budget by March 13, 2020, as required by legislation.

The Committee was informed that the two major sources of funding are the Province of Manitoba and the property tax levy. In the most recent budget, provincial funding provided only 58.3% of the total revenue required to balance the WSD budget. The second major source of funding is from property taxation which provided an additional 38.5% of the total revenue. The remaining three percent is revenue from other sources such as the federal government, First Nations authorities and other school divisions who use WSD resources.

The Committee was informed that provincial funding limits the opportunities to assist school divisions in removing the many barriers to education. This may impact student outcomes and key building blocks that are necessary to contribute to their growth and success in school. The Committee was also informed that Provincial funding continues to lag behind the needs of the students, families, staff and communities of the Division, resulting in an increased burden on division residents through property taxation.

The Committee was informed that the Division's priority is to maintain programs and services.

## **6. Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC)**

The Committee was provided with an overview of the on the role and services provided by MAPC. The Committee was informed that Trustee Reid is the Acting Vice-President of the Manitoba Association of Parent Council (MAPC). The Committee was informed that MAPC is legislated to be the voice of parents at the education table. MAPC provides solutions, ideas, advocacy, tips and resources. The Committee was informed that MAPC has a bi-monthly newsletter and also forums and special events.

The Committee was encouraged to contact the Board and Community Services Office to become a member of the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils for the 2019/2020 school year.

**7. 2019/2020 District Advisory Committee Dates**

The Committee was informed of the following schedule of the District Advisory Committees for the 2019/2020 school year:

**Inner City District Advisory Committee**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Tuesday, November 5, 2019  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020  
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

**Central District Advisory Committee**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, November 19, 2019  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
Thursday, April 30, 2020

**French Immersion Advisory Committee**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, November 27, 2019  
Thursday, February 20, 2020  
Thursday, May 7, 2020

**South District Advisory Committee**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, November 7, 2019  
Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

**North District Advisory Committee**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, November 14, 2019  
Tuesday, February 18, 2020  
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

**Student Advisory Committee**  
**4:30 p.m.**

Wednesday, November 20, 2019  
Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

JAMIE DUMONT  
Trustee Representative

**In Attendance:**

**Voting Representatives:**

Collège Churchill  
École J.B. Mitchell  
École Lansdowne  
École Laura Secord  
École River Heights  
École Robert H. Smith  
École Sacré Coeur  
École Sir William Osler

**Administration:**

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services  
Amanda Capina, Vice-President, École Garden Grove  
Graça Do Coto Moreira, Vice-Principal, École J.B. Mitchell  
Ruth Schappert, Principal, École LaVérendrye  
Nancy Karpinsky, Principal, École Luxton  
Brad Burns, Principal, École Riverview  
Joy Perrott, Principal, École Stanley Knowles  
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary, Board of Trustees

**Regrets:**

École Garden Grove  
École secondaire Kelvin High  
École LaVérendrye  
École Riverview  
École Stanley Knowles  
École Victoria-Albert

**Trustees:**

Jamie Dumont  
Linda Schatkowsky  
Jennifer Chen