

# THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

## NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 23, 2021

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#### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee members approved the Agenda of February 23, 2021, as distributed.

#### 2. 2021/2022 Draft Budget Discussion

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide an overview on the draft Budget for the 2021/2022 school year.

Committee members were informed that on February 4, 2021, the Province of Manitoba announced an increase in education funding of \$20.8 million dollars. This resulted in a decrease in funding from the province of 1.6% or \$2.9 million dollars and an additional reduction from other revenue resources such as the Federal government of \$1.3 million dollars. As a result, the Board of Trustees is required to reduce almost \$5 million in programs in order to achieve a balanced budget of \$421,039,405. As directed by the Provincial Government, the property tax levy for WSD home and business owners will be frozen at 2020 levels or a decrease of about \$6 a year on the average assessed home value of \$225,700 within in WSD.

Committee members were informed that the reduction in the provincial budget along with the two percent cap on the special levy has created a deficit that requires WSD to reduce programs and/or services in order to achieve a balanced budget for the 2021/2022 school year.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees drafted a proposed list of reductions to be made including School Resource Officers, Unfilled divisional support position vacancies, Occupational/ Physiotherapy, Milk Subsidy Program, Utility savings, School Budgets (non-salary), and School Clerk positions(12 month to 10 month).

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that a list of non-mandated programs is available under Financial Facts on the WSD website.

Committee members discussed each item and expressed concern regarding the proposed reduction to Occupational/ Physiotherapy programming. The Secretary-Treasurer informed Committee members that the Board discussed the possibility of the program being subsidized by Health Services. The Board of Trustees will request a meeting with the province to request that funding be provided by the WRHA for the delivery of the program.

In a response to an enquiry Committee members were informed that in the event that WRHA is unable to subsidize the costs of the Occupational/ Physiotherapy program the Board of Trustees would need to re-examine the list of non-mandated programs to determine in what other areas reductions could be made to balance the budget.

A parent representative expressed concern that access to these programs outside of the school environment is very costly and it can be difficult to navigate online services. For many families this vital resource would no longer be available to their children if it were not offered in the school.

In response to an enquiry regarding the SRO program, the Secretary-Treasurer informed Committee members that initially the SRO program began as a tripartite agreement between

the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and WSD, for the delivery of service and was equally funded by all parties. In recent years, the province does not provide funding to support for any increases and WSD has supplemented the difference to support the continuation of the program. The Board of Trustees will continue discussions with the City and Province regarding alternate options for the SRO program.

Committee members expressed concern that not all community members in the North End received the SRO survey and therefore their voices may not be reflected in the data results collected. Committee members commented that it was vital the survey was equitable and that all neighborhoods were included. Trustee Schatkowsky encouraged parents to reach out to their schools to ensure their voices were heard.

Committee members agreed that it would be beneficial to lobby the province to provide funding to school boards that takes into account inflation costs to ensure that schools are able to cover these vital programs. Trustee Reid informed Committee members that they can contact their MLA and the Minister of Education to voice their concerns. Committee members were informed that the Manitoba School Board Association has been in meetings with the province including the Minister of Finance to advocate for additional funding.

A parent representative commented that it would be beneficial to explore alternate revenue streams to avoid being completely dependent on the province to provide funding for these programs.

In response to an enquiry regarding full-day kindergarten the Superintendent of Education Services informed Committee members that the full-day kindergarten program began with four schools in 2014, in 2015 five additional schools were added to the program, and two additional schools were added in 2016. The total number of schools providing full-day kindergarten in WSD is 11.

Committee members were informed that feedback in writing should be submitted no later than March 1, 2021. All feedback will be taken into consideration by the Board of Trustees prior to finalizing the Budget. The Budget must be submitted to the Province of Manitoba by March 15, 2021.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

- 3.1 Committee members requested an update on the renaming of Cecil Rhodes School. The administration informed Committee members that the surveys have been completed and that the administration is reviewing the results of the survey. Committee members were informed that WSD received a good response to the survey. The results of the survey will be presented to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting for review and consideration.

### **4. MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF PARENT COUNCILS (MAPC) MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Committee members received information on the renewal for the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Membership.

**5. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS**

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- Ralph Brown School

**6. DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DATES**

Committee members were informed that the next North District Advisory Committee meeting will be held in April (T.B.D.).

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In Attendance:

**Voting Representatives**

Andrew Mynarski School  
Champlain School  
Lansdowne School  
Faraday School  
Garden Grove School  
Inkster School  
Lord Nelson School  
Meadows West School  
Ralph Brown School  
Robertson School  
Shaughnessy Park School  
St. John's High School  
Stanley Knowles School  
Waterford Springs School  
Luxton School  
Sisler High School

**Regrets**

Isaac Newton School  
Prairie Rose School  
Tyndall Park School

**Administration**

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services  
Paul Kochan, Secretary-Treasurer  
Tony Marchione, Director  
Jennifer Cox, Principal Faraday School  
Dino Di Fabrizio, Principal Inkster School  
Mohammad Rezai, Principal Isaac Newton School  
Sandra Severson, Principal Lord Nelson School  
Joy Perrott, Principal Luxton School  
Ken Romaniuk, Principal Prairie Rose School  
Rosanna Guzzi, Principal Ralph Brown School  
Jude Guzzi, Principal Robertson School  
Doug Taylor, Principal St. John's High School  
Pat Graham, Principal Shaughnessy Park School  
Gisele Mosphanchuk, Principal Tyndall Park School  
Paulo Teixeira, Principal Champlain School  
Daniel Keith, Vice-Principal Lord Nelson School  
Joanne Sabourin, Vice-Principal St. John's High School  
Julie Popke, Vice-Principal Isaac Newton School  
Lucas Buller, Vice-Principal Andrew Mynarski School  
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal Sisler High School  
Steven Nikkel, Vice-Principal Shaughnessy Park School  
Amanda Ferbrache, W.A.N.T.E. Representative

**Trustees**

Arlene Reid  
Linda Schatkowsky  
Jennifer Chen

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## North District School Report February 23, 2021

In January we welcomed back our students and staff after a much-needed winter break. The school reopening was very smooth and students were quick to return to their normal pace. During the first two weeks of January, teachers delivered instruction for both in-class and remote learning and students continued to remain engaged in their learning. We are pleased to announce that all students have now returned to in class learning where they can learn with their peers as they continue to develop their academic and social/emotional skills.

We continue to work with our families in partnership to ensure that our students have a safe and healthy environment to learn in. We ask that parents and caregivers continue to review our webpage for updates and important announcements about school and from public health. We trust that our community is working together to ensure that our protocols are keeping everyone healthy throughout their learning journey while attending Ralph Brown School.

### **Announcements and Celebrations:**

1. We are very excited to announce that we have been granted a \$1000 Love of Reading grant from Indigo Books. Thank you to the Board of Trustees for approving this grant. Our library will soon be filled with new books for our students to enjoy. Our goal is to further build on our inventory of books that reflect diversity and inclusion.
2. Parent Council has played an integral role in supporting remote learning this year. Thus far the PAC has financially supported the purchase of document cameras, headphones and drawing tablets. They also provided funds to purchase additional shields to support the physical distancing requirements outlined in our Covid planning protocols.

Fundraisers this year include:

- a. Hot Lunch every month
- b. Winter calendars
- c. Kovbassa Rings

The staff and students appreciate the generosity and ongoing support PAC continues to offer. Their involvement is an important component in school planning.

3. Teachers have been integrating SeeSaw and Google Classroom into their lessons since the beginning of the school year. All parents/caregivers are encouraged to log into their child(ren)'s accounts to see their work and become active in their learning.
4. Hearing Screening took place during the second week of January for all students in Nursery and Kindergarten and for those students who had never been screened before. Hearing loss can greatly impact the rate of learning and we are grateful to have this program available to all WSD students. Thank you to educational assistants, Ms. Courtland-Wild and Ms. Olson for taking the time to be trained and to assist with the screening process.

5. Ukrainian Bilingual Program Updates:
  - a. The Ukrainian students from P2 and room 107 hosted an assembly on January 21st in place of their annual Christmas Dinner. The assembly consisted of a virtual Ukrainian Christmas presentation which celebrated Koliada. The students and teachers did a wonderful job in sharing and educating us on the Ukrainian Christmas traditions.
  - b. St. Nicholas visited each of our classrooms spreading Christmas joy and delivering gifts of candy canes and oranges.
6. During the month of February, we focused on the theme of “Once Upon a Time” as we celebrated I Love to Read Month. Thursday night Virtual Storytime was a great success with each night averaging between 30 to 40 participants. Thank you to the staff for planning this month-long event, and thank you to those who shared their homes and their family time to read to our students.
7. We are now accepting Nursery/Kindergarten registrations for both Ukrainian Bilingual and English programs. We are also accepting registrations for new students in all grades. Registrations can be completed online on our website or arrangements can be made to pick up a registration package from the school.
8. The 2021-2022 Open House will be held virtually this year. The virtual tour can now be found on our website. We welcome everyone to take a look and share the information with anyone who would like to register at Ralph Brown School.

# **Robertson School Report**

- Robertson School has 352 students including students in our general education classrooms and our Inclusion Support Services Low Enrolment Programs that include an Autism Center and Life Skills Programs.

-We have 26 Teachers including Physical Education, Music, Literacy Lessons, Autism and Life Skills, a Principal and Vice Principal, and this year 2 Supply Teachers to support vacancies during COVID 19. As well as 34 EA's with Low Enrolment and General Education programs and 2 supply EA's to support vacancies during COVID 19. We have a Head Clerk and a Library Clerk, Head Custodian, Caretaker, Assistant Caretaker and a Full Time Sanitizer due to COVID 19.

-We receive support from Clinical Support Services: Social Work, Psychology, Reading, Speech and Language and from Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy along with Music Therapy.

-Robertson School is a controlled environment with recommended safety protocols in place, which reduces the risk of transmission of COVID 19 to our staff and students. Physical distancing, wearing masks for older students, frequent hand washing and sanitizing stations throughout the school, along with extra cleaning and sanitizing.

-Student drop off and pick up takes place outside. The teachers meet their students in the school yard and pre-screen for illness and all sanitize upon entry. The students also have staggered lunch breaks and recesses which take place in recess cohorts.

-Robertson is part of the Facility of Dentistry Variety Children's Outreach Program through the University of Manitoba, offering free dental screening for all kindergarten to grade 6 students.

-The annual Terry Fox run this year looked different. Students participated at their own levels during their phys-ed classes, and learned about the life story and success of Terry Fox.

-The students took part in Orange Shirt Day on Sept. 30 acknowledging the impact of the residential school system.

-Robertson collected donations for Unicef by having a Spirit Week during the last week of October. The students participated in PJ Day, Sports Team Day, Crazy Hair Day, a Color Battle Day and ending the week with Costume Day.

-The students take part in Virtual Assemblies.

-Robertson took part in “I Love to Read Month” in February with the theme of “Making Connections”. Students engaged in whole school planned activities to “connect” and celebrate reading. Connect with a Book - Stop Drop and Read, Connect with an Author & make a book mark of your favourite author, Connect with Words - wear a shirt with nice words, Connect with your School and Connect with your Happy Place – wear your PJ’s and snuggle up with a book. Connecting to our School had staff members (lunch program parents, caretakers, office staff, EAs and/or other teachers) invited in to read to classrooms (following COVID 19 protocols). The students were invited to connect with their culture and share their cultural language and traditions during virtual announcements. We were also fortunate to have Lieutenant Governor Janice Filmon virtually read to 2 classrooms.

The students also took place in a Holiday Spirit Week. Candy Cane Lane - wear red and green. Holiday Head Wear, Deck the Halls – decked out in their hippest holiday clothing, Winter Wonderland – Dressed in blue and white (sparkles were optional) and Long Winter’s Nap – PJ day!

- Parent-Teacher Interviews in November took place virtually by phone calls or Google Meets. The same procedure will take place in March including a virtual Book Fair for the students!

-The students and staff have made a lot of adjustments and changes brought about by COVID 19 this year, and we although we look forwards to a time where we can ‘get back to normal’, we are grateful for everyone’s flexibility and efforts to make the best of a new and unprecedented situation.

Sheryl Erickson

Roberston School Parent Council / North District Representative