

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2015

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 24, 2015

Your South District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Election of Committee Chair

Your Committee was informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board held on September 14, 2015, Trustee Chris Broughton was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Sherri Rollins was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from École Riverview School volunteered to Chair the first South District Advisory Committee. The Committee agreed to appoint a Chair to preside at each meeting of the 2015/2016 term.

2. 2016/2017 Budget Development

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide your Committee with an overview of the 2016/2017 Budget Development.

Your Committee was informed that the Board is seeking input during the development of the Budget. In early February, after the Provincial Funding announcement, Trustees will meet with all District Advisory Committees as well as have an open meeting for residents in the Division to present the draft budget and receive feedback.

Your Committee was informed that the budget was developed on the following Guiding Principles: Leading Education and Innovation; Providing High Quality Education; Employing Qualified, Caring and Competent Staff; Educating the Whole Child; Building stronger children, families and communities; Practicing Sustainable Development; Ensuring Safe Learning Environments in Schools; Managing Tax Dollars Responsibly.

Your Committee was informed of some of the challenges facing the Board which include the unknown provincial funding level until announced by the Minister of Education in January 2016, costs required for continuation of programs and services, costs to maintain buildings, infrastructure and equipment, addressing local needs, the importance of maintaining taxing authority, property reassessment and communication. Your Committee was also informed of required changes in rates or costs such as negotiated salary changes, salary scale increments, changes in benefits, employer rates for employment insurance, Canada pension plan and payroll tax, costs for supplies, paper, books, equipment, rates changes for utilities and ongoing investments required to maintain and repair school facilities.

Your Committee was informed of provincial mandates that affect the Division's budget which include a class size initiative, report cards, Appropriate Educational Programming (Bill 13) Standards for Student Services, accessibility guidelines and transportation requirements.

A survey was distributed to your Committee with respect to the development of the 2016/2017 Budget Development. Your Committee was informed that feedback will be compiled and given to Trustees for consideration.

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Your Committee felt the survey was difficult to answer as it is hard to place a rating on programs as they are all important.

Your Committee discussed the need to increase supports in technology, such as having additional learning resources available, e-books and infrastructure to support technology.

Your Committee was informed that last year, the Board of Trustees approved the use of reserve funds to have enhanced WiFi availability in all schools by the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Your Committee was informed that in last year's budget, the Province cut funding for special education and the Board has focussed on maintaining those services.

Your Committee expressed concern on the impact full day kindergarten has on other programs such as daycares that occur within the school or community.

Your Committee discussed programs offered by the City of Winnipeg such as the Land Dedication Reserve, which communities can apply for funding. School communities can approach their city councillor and enquire about the balance and request funding for school projects such as band equipment, athletics and theatre equipment. Your Committee was also informed that the City clerk's office would have information available.

Your Committee was informed that the City of Winnipeg has appointed a former trustee from Brandon, as the Council's Liaison to the City's School Divisions.

In response to an enquiry regarding provincial funding, Trustee Wasyliw informed your Committee that provincial funding has not kept up with the increases in expenditure requirements for the continuation of existing programs and services, mandatory changes in rates and costs, the maintenance of buildings and equipment. Your Committee was informed that the Division has had to slightly increase property taxes to sustain programs and services. Your Committee was informed that other Provinces' authority to levy taxes has been taken away with disastrous results, leaving schools overcrowded and underfunded.

Your Committee was informed that trustees have been strongly advocating with the Province for additional funding and support, in the meantime the Division relies on property taxes to provide programs and services to assist our students in learning, such as the nutrition program.

Your Committee was informed that in the 1990's, the Province capped school board special levy at 2%, leaving divisions forced to make significant reductions in staffing, decreasing the 10 month nursery program to 8 months along, with other reductions. Your Committee was informed that the Division has successfully worked on rebuilding budgets for affected programs and services.

Your Committee was informed that trustees are discussing possible funding solutions such as revenue being derived from municipal income tax rather than based on property taxation.

In response to an enquiry, Trustee Wasyliw informed your Committee that School Resource Officers are funded by the City, the Province and the Division. The Division committed to \$800,000 to fund the requirements of providing nine School Resource Officers.

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Your Committee was informed that the transportation budget has been a fast growing budget cost and the Division is exploring ways to reduce costs. Your Committee was informed that any change being implemented would occur gradually over a period of time in order to decrease any disruption to families and the community. Your Committee was informed that programs such as walking school busses and other green initiatives are being explored.

3. 2016/2017 Budget Process and Timelines

Your Committee was informed that a Special Board Meeting will be held on February 22, 2016 to receive delegations on the Budget. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until February 26, 2016. All feedback will be considered by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 7, 2016. The Board must finalize the budget by March 15, 2016, as required by legislation.

4. 2015/2016 Advisory Committee Dates

Your Committee was informed that at a meeting held November 2, 2015, the Board of Trustees approved the following recommendation: That the following tentative schedule of the District Advisory Committees for the 2015/2016 school year be approved and that on a regular basis the Board of Trustees identify topics for discussion at the District Advisory Meetings.

Central District Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 26, 2015
 Wednesday, February 3, 2016
 Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Inner City District Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
 Wednesday, February 10, 2016
 Wednesday, April 27, 2016

North District Advisory Committee

Tuesday, November 17, 2015
 Thursday, February 4, 2016
 Tuesday, May 10, 2016

South District Advisory Committee

Tuesday, November 24, 2015
 Tuesday, February 9, 2016
 Tuesday, April 26, 2016

French Immersion Advisory Committee

~~Wednesday, December 2, 2015~~
 Thursday, February 18, 2016
 Thursday, May 19, 2016

Student Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
 Wednesday, February 24, 2016
 Thursday, May 12, 2016

5. **Parent Run Lunch Programs**

Your Committee was informed that at a Central District Advisory Committee meeting last year, your Committee discussed concerns on the operation of the parent group lunch programs as some schools have many challenges with staff retention, collection of fees, and staff training.

Your Committee was invited to provide feedback on three main areas, what training has been provided for the Lunch Program Coordinator; is the space provided for lunch program sufficient, if not what suggestions can be forwarded to improve the area; what would be helpful in the collection of fees and who assists in this process? The feedback will be compiled and given to trustees for review.

Your Committee discussed the training that has been provided for the lunch program co-ordinator. Your Committee shared information on the range of training provided which include food handler's certification, First Aid, CPR, acceptable behaviour training and URIS training. Members of your Committee indicated that training has not been provided for the lunch program co-ordinator at their school.

Your Committee discussed whether there was sufficient space provided and what suggestions can be forwarded to improve the area. Members of your Committee expressed concerns with space limitations, while other schools had plenty of space. Members of your Committee indicated their school utilizes a staggered lunch time which assists with spacing issues. Your Committee also expressed a need for sufficient furniture in lunch areas.

Your Committee discussed what was found to be helpful in the collection of fees and who assists the process. Your Committee shared their school process which included the implementation of late fees, sending out weekly notices, allowing for discounts for early payment and providing reductions for parents who are willing to volunteer as program monitors benefit in the collection of fees.

6. **Recording of District Advisory Meetings**

Your Committee was informed that the recording of District Advisory Committee meetings was being added to the agenda for discussion to determine whether there was an interest from parents to livestream meetings.

Your Committee expressed concern that parents would not be comfortable attending meetings and would be reluctant to speak openly and share information. Your Committee also expressed concern related to confidentiality. Your Committee stated that there may be an interest in livestreaming town hall meetings.

7. **Technology in Schools**

Your Committee expressed concerns with a lack of I.T. support, the elimination of positions and equipment not working effectively.

Your Committee was informed that each school has a budget which includes a staffing budget and every school may vary in support staff depending on the focus of that particular school. Your Committee was informed that I.T. support should be centrally provided and the Board will look into the matter further.

8. Enquiries and Announcements

Your Committee indicated that they would like information on the timelines on renovations to repurpose the École LaVérendrye existing gym and long term plans for the South District French Immersion schools.

Your Committee was informed that it is anticipated that the renovations to the existing gym at LaVérendrye is to be completed by September 2016 and that trustees are lobbying the Province for funding of a new N-8 French Immersion school on the Sir William Osler property which is number 3 on trustee's priority list. Your Committee was informed that there is an enrolment drop in French Immersion programs from elementary to junior high and another drop in high school. With a new Sir William Osler site and a dual track French Immersion school in the Waterford Green this may stabilize enrolment. Your Committee was informed that Trustees anticipate a town hall meeting in the near future to provide an update to parents on Sir William Osler and École LaVerendrye. Your Committee discussed the impact of immigration on enrolment. Your Committee was informed that the Board is undergoing a Division-wide review of school catchments to address some of the concerns related to overcrowding of schools and programs.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHRIS BROUGHTON
Trustee Representative

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Michelle Rossen, Brock Corydon School
Michele Rice, Brock Corydon School
Sara McIvor-Prouty, Carpathia School/River Heights School
Beth Smyth, Collège Churchill
Andrea Villeneuve, Grant Park High School
Lisa Smit-Beiko, Harrow School
Dawn Lavand, Harrow School
Judy Grossman, Ecole J.B. Mitchell School
Miles Barber, Kelvin High School
Stacy Huard, Ecole LaVerendrye
Stacey McCracken, Lord Roberts School
Amanda Plante, Lord Roberts School
Wendy Love, Montrose School
Jodie Sie, Ecole Riverview School
Dayna Distasio, Ecole Riverview School

Regrets:

Churchill High School
Earl Grey School
Queenston School
Ecole Robert H. Smith School

Trustees:

Chris Broughton
Sherri Rollins
Mark Wasyliw

Administration:

René Appelmans, Secretary-Treasurer
Julie Millar, Director of Student Services
Rob Riel, Director of Aboriginal Education & Newcomer Services
Ara Morris, Principal, Brock Corydon School
Gordon Armstrong, Principal, Carpathia School
Leslie MacGillivray, Principal, Harrow School
Paulette Huggins, Principal, Ecole J.B. Mitchell School
Shane Fox, Vice-Principal, Lord Roberts School
Russell Antymis, Vice-Principal, Ecole River Heights School
Tom Rossi, Principal, Ecole Robert H. Smith School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Member
Carrie Logan, WANTE Representative