

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2019

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 7, 2019

The South District 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 Chris Broughton was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from Robert H. Smith School volunteered to Chair the South District Advisory Committee meetings.

2. 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.

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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 International Education Program has seen an increased amount of students and that the program continues to expand. The Division has reinvested back into growing the program and doing more marketing to encourage continued growth.

The Committee was informed it is anticipated that the report from the province regarding the K-12 Education Review will be released in March 2020. The Committee was encouraged to continue to provide feedback to their elective officials. The Committee was also informed that amalgamation would be costly and past amalgamation has indicated there is no cost-savings realized.

The Committee was informed that the province announced phasing out property taxation for funding of education. The Committee was also informed that last year, the Province capped the special levy increase a school division can impose and WSD anticipates a continued cap this year. The Committee was also informed that a cap on the special levy will be challenging to deliver a balanced budget. As a result, the Division will continue to review programs, explore further reductions in administration costs and other supports.

The Committee was informed that the Division has made significant budget-saving changes over the years through restructuring, reorganizing and reducing senior administration. The Committee was also informed that the Division continues to see rising expenses such as replacing windows, lighting in schools and investing in programs/products.

The Committee was encouraged to continue to express their concerns regarding funding and amalgamation with their MLA, the Minister of Education, Federal Government and provincial politicians.

3. Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC)

The Committee was provided with an overview on the role and services provided by MAPC. The Committee was informed that MAPC is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing meaningful involvement of parents and caregivers within school communities, representing their voice to all educational stakeholders to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba. The Committee was informed that MAPC is about public engagement and were encouraged to register as a member for the 2019/2020 school year.

4. 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

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IN ATTENDANCE

Voting Representatives:

Earl Grey School
Grant Park High School
Grosvenor School
Harrow School
École J.B. Mitchell School
École LaVérendrye School
Queenston School
École River Heights School
École Riverview School
École Robert H. Smith School
Rockwood School

Trustees:

Trustee Jamie Dumont
Trustee Chris Broughton

Regrets:

Montrose School

Administration:

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Education Services
Julie Millar, Director of Student Services
Evelyn Siddall, Principal, Harrow School
Paulette Huggins, École J.B. Mitchell School
Graça Do Coto Moreira, Vice Principal, École J.B. Mitchell School
Ruth Schappert, Principal, École LaVérendrye School
Jamie Hutchison, Principal, Grant Park High School
Susanne Mole, Principal, Montrose School
Wade Gregg, Principal, Queenston School
Susan Drysdale, Principal, École River Heights School
Andrea Powell, Principal, École Robert H. Smith School
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary, Board of Trustees