

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2020

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 11, 2020

The South District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2020/2021 Draft Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide an overview of the 2020/2021 Draft Budget. The Committee was informed that on January 30, 2020, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The Committee was informed that the Manitoba government will increase funding for public schools by more than \$6.6 million for the 2020/2021 school year. The Committee was informed that school divisions also raise revenue through local education property taxes. The Committee was informed that the Manitoba government is again requesting that school divisions limit increases to education property taxes to two per cent for the 2020/2021 school year.

The Committee was informed that for the 2020/2021 school year, the Board is proposing a stand pat budget which maintains all programs and services in the WSD.

A Committee member expressed concern that the Spanish program and other language programs would be affected if there was a need to reduce the budget. The Committee was informed that many of the language programs are supported by the fact that WSD provides transportation allotted to these programs. The Committee was encouraged to communicate with their MLA or the Minister of Education regarding programs and services. The Committee was also informed that they can register as a delegate to speak at the board meeting on March 2, 2020.

The Committee was informed that the enrollment has decreased by approximately 350 students this year which has led to a reduction in provincial funding. The Committee was also informed that the province has announced a 15% reduction in administrative positions.

2. Provincial K-12 Education Review

The Committee was informed that the Commission would be releasing the report to the Minister of Education and Training in February 2020. It is anticipated that the report would be publically released in March 2020, which will include recommendations on the key topic areas identified by the Province. School Boards would not have the ability to provide input on the recommendations and would be obligated to implement the recommendations within the timelines established by the Province. The report and recommendations will be shared with parents indicating the next steps to be in compliance with the direction from the Minister of Education.

The Committee was informed that additional information on the Provincial K-12 Education Review can be found on the Manitoba Commission on K-12 Education.

The Committee was informed that the Province of Manitoba had suggested that WSD delay the by-election to fill the trustee vacancies for wards 3 and 4 pending the results of the K-12 Review. The Committee was informed that the Province did not provide clarification on the request to delay the by-election.

Respectfully Submitted,

JAMIE DUMONT
Trustee Representative

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IN ATTENDANCE

Voting Representatives:

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

Regrets:

Carpathia School
Grosvenor School
Harrow School
Montrose School
Queenston School

Administration:

Paul Kochan, Secretary-Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer
Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Education Services
Julie Millar, Director of Student Services
Susan Christiuk, Principal, Carpathia School
Jamie Hutchison, Principal, Grant Park High School
Graça Do Coto Moreira, Vice-Principal, École J.B. Mitchell School
Maria Silva, Principal, Kelvin High School
Ruth Schappert, Principal, École LaVérendrye School
Wade Gregg, Principal, Queenston School
Warren Nickerson, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith School
Kathy Ateah, Principal, Rockwood School
Mark Wasyliw, MLA, Fort Garry Constituency
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary, Board of Trustees

Trustees:

Trustee Jamie Dumont
Trustee Chris Broughton