

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, November 24, 2015

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Chris Broughton welcomed everyone to the first South District Advisory Committee meeting for the 2015/2016 school year. 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.

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

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.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A New Business item regarding the recording of District Advisory Meetings was added to the agenda.

The Committee members agreed to add Technology Support to the Agenda of November 24, 2015.

The Committee members approved the amended Agenda of November 24, 2015.

4. 2016/2017 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

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

In preparation of the 2016/2017 Budget, the Board approved a process that would again enable early discussion with members of the school community and provide additional opportunities for consultation.

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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.

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Committee members were informed that 62% of the Division's revenue is from Provincial funding while 36% is from property taxation and 2% from other sources.

Committee members were informed that there was an overall expenditure increase of 3.6% in the 2015/2016 budget with a 1.4% increase in provincial funding resulting in a \$38 per year or 3.2% increase in 2015 property tax levy on the average assessed property of \$171,130 in the Winnipeg School Division.

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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 Committee members with respect to the development of the 2016/2017 Budget Development. Committee members held a breakout session to discuss the Budget survey. The survey is also posted on the Division's website www.wsd1.org. Committee members were informed that feedback will be compiled and given to Trustees for consideration.

Upon returning from group discussions, Committee members felt the survey was difficult to answer as it is hard to place a rating on programs as they are all important.

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

Committee members were 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.

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

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

Committee members 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. Committee members were also informed that the City clerk's office would have information available.

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Committee members were 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 Committee members 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. Committee members were informed that the Division has had to slightly increase property taxes to sustain programs and services. Committee members were informed that other Provinces' authority to levy taxes has been taken away with disastrous results, leaving schools overcrowded and underfunded.

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that the Division has successfully worked on rebuilding budgets for affected programs and services.

Committee members were 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 Committee members 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.

Committee members were informed that the transportation budget has been a fast growing budget cost and the Division is exploring ways to reduce costs. Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that programs such as walking school busses and other green initiatives are being explored.

5. 2016/2017 BUDGET PROCESS AND TIMELINES

Committee members were 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.

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6. 2015/2016 ADVISORY COMMITTEE DATES

Committee members were 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

7. PARENT RUN LUNCH PROGRAMS

Committee members were informed that at a Central District Advisory Committee meeting last year, Committee members 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.

Committee members held a breakout session to discuss the Parent-Run Lunch program. Committee members were 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.

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

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

Committee members discussed what was found to be helpful in the collection of fees and who assists the process. Committee members 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.

8. RECORDING OF DISTRICT ADVISORY MEETINGS

Committee members were 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.

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

9. TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

At the request of a parent representative from Montrose School, technology in schools was added to the agenda for discussion.

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

Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that I.T. support should be centrally provided and the Board will look into the matter further.

10. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

Enquiry – École LaVendrye

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

Committee members were informed that it is anticipated that the renovations to the existing gym at LaVendrye 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. Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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. Committee members discussed the impact of immigration on enrolment. Committee members were 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.

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SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- École J. B. Mitchell School
- École Robert H. Smith School

11. FOR INFORMATION

11.1 Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC)

Committee members were reminded to contact the Board Office if they wish to become a member of the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils for the 2015/2016 school year.

11.2 Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees

The parent representatives received a copy of the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees for information.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the South District Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at a location to be determined.

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

The Community Council of Ecole LaVerendrye and Sir William Osler would like to bring up the following points to the Board. There was no mention of any of this on the last minutes from the last Board meeting.

- 1) What is going to happen next year, even if the gym is ready, there will still be construction to turn the old gym into classrooms so the N-1 won't have room to come back. This doesn't seem to be acknowledged by the board or division and families should know that the school won't be back together next year.
- 2) Since there will still be N-1 at SWO will there also be grade 2s at both schools? Again families need to know.
- 3) When will the review of school catchment areas be provided to the Board?
- 4) It was mentioned at the Town Hall at Kelvin that the board would be reaching out to us see how things are going; we haven't heard anything from the board.
- 5) What are the long term plans for junior high if a new school build at SWO doesn't happen. Is the overcrowding going to start being seen at Ecole River Heights soon with all the kids coming from Ecole LaVerendrye.
- 6) What is the status of the Immersion Review



École J.B. Mitchell School

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Winnipeg, MB R3N 0M1
VOICE: 204-488-4517
FAX: 204-488-1465

Paulette Huggins
Principal
Linda Berry
Vice-Principal

November 24, 2015

South Advisory Committee Report

École J.B Mitchell School is a dual track English and French Immersion school located in the south part of the Winnipeg School Division. We began the 2015 school year with students. Approximately 25% of the student population are EAL students. There was an influx of student registrations in the early fall which has increased some classroom sizes.

Highlights :

September :

- A Welcome Back assembly was held in September to welcome new and returning students and staff
- Meet The Teacher was held on September 17
- The Terry Fox Run for N-6 students was held on September 18th. A total of \$353 was raised
- JBM Parent Council held its first meeting of the new school year on September 21st. The focus for the upcoming year includes continuing plans for the redevelopment of the playground. Parent Council has a number of fundraising initiatives planned throughout the school year to support the playground redevelopment.
- JBM continues to support Hot Lunch on the first Tuesday of the month

October:

- The annual EAL Dinner was hosted by the school on October 14 for the newcomer families
- Students attended the MYRCA presentation
- JBM Global Kidizens held their first meeting of the school year to plan this year's fundraising
- Everybody Has The Right Walk-A-Thon was held on October 20. A donation to Habitat For Humanity was made on behalf of the school to promote the right for shelter.

November:

- Everybody Has The Right to play was the theme for November. Grade 2 students have done weekly announcements to promote playing respectfully and safely.
- Gr. 1-6 students began working with a Freeze Frame artist on a stop gap animation project which will be part of the Winter Concert
- Tri-Conferences for N-6 students were held on November 19 and 20

Looking Ahead:

- The Winter Primary Concert is planned for December 10
- Nursery and Kindergarten concert is planned for December 9



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



École Robert H. Smith School

315 Oak Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3P8
Phone: 488-1137 Fax: 487-1463

T. Rossi
Principal

D. Ostermann
Vice Principal

South District Parent Advisory Report WSD & Robert H. Smith School Priorities for 2015-2016

1. Strengthen instructional and assessment strategies for all students using all available resources including the integration of technology.
2. Improve academic and behaviour support services for students with special needs.
3. Strengthen and enhance Education for Sustainable Development initiatives that address environmental, social and economic issues world-wide.
4. Further improve school attendance and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.

Additional school priorities include:

1. Strengthen instructional and assessment strategies in the areas of Literacy, Scientific Inquiry and Information and Communication Technology.
2. Improve Students' French oral language proficiency.
3. Strengthen and enhance E.S.D. in the areas of positive school climate, mental health and aboriginal education.

School Related Information

1. Community Breakfast Charity on Friday March 4, 2016. Grade 6 students researched, presented and voted on the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation as our charity this year.
2. Create A Thon this year was the most successful fundraiser at our school that engaged staff and students. Students participated in numerous activities throughout the day, made a classroom tableau, students and staff were part of our 'In a Creative World, Everybody is a Thumbbody' Mural. Staff and students had their thumb print converted to a person and pasted on the mural. Our Art Gallery Walk in the gym was a huge success. Every class had a reserved spot for them to display students' art work. Our multipurpose rooms was used to demonstrate dance and movement and all the students demonstrated this, led by Mr. Coffie and his African Drums and Xylophone. The focus of our Create A Thon was on using the processes of learning that are linked to curricular areas such as the Arts, as well as Science, Social Studies, Language Arts and Mathematics. The processes used were Analyzing, Communicating, Discovering, Explaining, Exploring, Imagining, Investigating, Observing, Representing and Thinking. Our second fundraiser

is the Exercise-a-thon which will take place in May. All the kids were engaged for the entire day.

3. Our Creative Christmas Concert will be taking place on Tuesday December 8th this year with N & K performances at 9:45, Grades 1-3 at 1:30 and 6:30. Our grade 4 Choir will perform at all of them.
4. Once again Dreambox is being implemented with our grade 1 and 2 students, Jump Math is being used with a number of our grade 3-6 classrooms, and our grade 5 and 6 staff are in their second year of the Spirit of Math which the division provided professional development last year. Our teachers have been taking part in ongoing professional development for this resource.
5. Leadership Teams in our school consist of grade 5 and 6 students. All students are part of a leadership team; Troops or Communication Crew.
6. Our Roaming Laptop Cart has been an excellent addition to our school, replacing our computer lab that was converted into a classroom. More productive and meaningful learning taking place because the classroom teachers own it now.
7. During PAG Meetings this year again, we are having 2 different teachers attend each meeting and give short presentations on something that they are doing with their children in their classrooms.
8. Playground Enhancement Project continues at our school. The first phase of the project has been completed. The students are enjoying this new section of the playground which is a hill and shaded area for sitting and reading. Our parents are now raising funds for the second phase, which is an obstacle course.
9. On January 18, 2016 PD Day, all our staff will be having a training day on the Roots and Shoots Program that Dr. Jane Goodall is involved with. Our staff is very excited to be piloting this program in Manitoba.