

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2016

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 15, 2016

The North District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2017/2018 Budget Development

Chris Broughton, Chair of the Finance/Personnel Committee was in attendance to provide the committee with an overview of the 2017/2018 Draft Budget. The Committee was informed that the Board developed the Budget in support of Winnipeg School Division Strategic Plan.

The Committee was informed that the Budget was developed on the following Strategic Priorities: providing a robust and comprehensive education for students; improving learning outcomes; addressing barriers to learning; retaining and attracting valued staff; communicating and partnering with our communities; strengthening and enhancing sustainable development and managing tax dollars responsibly.

The Committee received an overview on the 2016/2017 Budget expenditures which totaled \$396 million.

The Committee reviewed the current Budget under the following categories: regular instruction, student support services, community education and services, instructional and support services, administration, student transportation, operations and maintenance and fiscal and capital expenditures.

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 62% of the total revenue required to balance the WSD budget. The second major source of funding is from property taxation which provided an additional 36% of the total revenue. The remaining 2% is revenue from other sources such as the federal government, First Nations authorities and other school divisions who use WSD resources.

Education is service based and the majority of the annual budget, or 81%, goes directly to the cost of providing instruction and supports in the classroom. Another 19% covers costs such as student transportation, building maintenance and operations, business administration and support services related to research, planning and technology.

The 2017/2018 Budget, will continue to focus on improving student success and aligning resources with student needs. The Board is committed to maintaining programs introduced during previous budgets. These include safe school initiatives, language programs, early years education and programs to ensure student success through to graduation. The Committee was informed that the provincial funding announcement is expected from mid-January to mid-February.

The Committee received a survey to facilitate discussions on the 2017/2018 Budget.

The Committee expressed concern on the question related to assisting children with special needs and encouraged the Board to reconsider the wording. The Committee felt that the question should be reworded to create a better understanding of how important it is to assist children with special needs in light of decreased provincial funding. The Committee was informed that the survey is used as an advocacy tool that has always provided results showing the importance of all our programs and services and it is not the intent that the survey be perceived that the Board is considering cutting funds/support to Special Education. The Committee was informed that the results are compiled and utilized to guide the Board in the development of the Budget.

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In response to an enquiry, Trustee Broughton informed the Committee that funding to support Indigenous Education includes Indigenous focused programs, heritage language programs and the placement of an additional elder. The Committee was informed that the province provides a major source of funding for the Aboriginal Academic Achievement program and these funds are utilized to support the Aboriginal Youth Leadership program, Indigenous education and literacy.

The Committee expressed concern on the expansion of the full day kindergarten pilot program without sufficient research on whether the program is beneficial to children. The Committee requested that funding for the full day kindergarten be utilized in other areas. The Committee was informed that members of the Board find a significant value in providing the full day kindergarten program and felt the benefits outweigh the financial costs of the program.

The Committee expressed concern on the reduction of the milk subsidy. The Committee was informed that the milk fee increased to \$0.25 this school year. The increase to the price of milk will help to offset the actual cost to the Division. The Committee was informed that the estimated savings for the Division is approximately \$300,000.

The Committee discussed the importance of maintaining programs and services such as Community Support Workers and breakfast programs.

The Committee discussed the need for increased transportation services to community access programs. The Committee was in support of a WSD sustainability conference for students and implementing a swim program if financially feasible.

The Committee discussed the importance of continuous funding for newcomers to the Division and stressed the importance that the Board continue advocating all levels of government for additional funding.

The Committee indicated parents and communities are continually fundraising for schools. The Committee was informed that the Board is undertaking an Equity Survey to be completed annually by schools to determine fees collected for supplies, field trips, and sports. Schools are also requested to identify the funds collected from fundraising events. The report will help to identify inequality of funds throughout the Division and identify schools with a greater need for additional funding.

The Committee expressed concern that property taxes are increasing. The Committee was informed that the Division faces further challenges as downtown growth is promoted while businesses receive a break in property taxes resulting in less money collected through property taxation for the WSD.

The Committee was informed that in addition to Budget presentations at District Advisory Committee meetings additional information is available on the Division's website including a Budget tool and property tax calculator. A Public meeting will also be held on February 27, 2017 at Administration Building No. 1, 1577 Wall Street East at 7:00 p.m. to provide information to the public and receive feedback from individuals or groups that may wish to attend. A survey is posted on the Division's website www.winnipegssd.ca. Committee members were advised that the members of the Board are interested in receiving pre budget feedback.

2. **Families and Schools Together (F&ST)**

The Committee received a presentation by Christine Turnbull of Families and Schools Together. Families and Schools Together helps children thrive by building stronger, more supportive relationships at home. Built on evidence-based practices and rigorously tested, F&ST consistently produces statistically significant improvements in children's behavior, emotional well-being and academic performance while building social capital among families, schools and communities. Families and Schools Together, Inc. exists to make a critical difference in the midst of these challenges by empowering parents, strengthening families and creating social networks that give children the opportunity for fulfilling, productive lives.

The Committee was informed that the F&ST program runs one night a week for 8 weeks, providing transportation and meals to participating families. Children, parents and youth are separated into groups for age based activities and instruction based classes. The F&ST program also has a 2 year follow up program called Fast Works where families get together once a month for activities. The F&ST program connects families with primary school administration as well as assists in helping families get connected with community based programs.

The Committee was informed that Families and Schools Together is funded by schools, the Province of MB and United Way. The program is offered for all grade levels and activities have been adjusted to meet the needs of the target child's age. Families and Schools Together programs are run by trained staff, teachers, recreation coordinator, community partners and youth advocates. Each F&ST Team forms a "hub" serving eight to 10 participating F&ST Families. Several F&ST Teams can collaborate to run multiple hubs simultaneously to serve larger populations, such as an entire grade level of children and their families. For more information on the program or to have a presentation please contact Christine Turnbull at Families and Schools Together by email at cturnbull@familydynamics.ca or by phone at 204-947-1401.

3. **2016/2017 Advisory Committee Dates**

The Committee was informed of the following schedule of the District Advisory Committees for the 2016/2017 school year.

Central District Advisory Committee 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9, 2016
Thursday, February 23, 2017
Thursday, May 4, 2017

North District Advisory Committee 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Tuesday, April 25, 2017

French Immersion Advisory Committee 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30, 2016
Thursday, March 2, 2017
Thursday, May 11, 2017

Inner City District Advisory Committee 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Thursday, April 27, 2017

South District Advisory Committee 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22, 2016
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Student Advisory Committee 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Tuesday, May 9, 2017

4. Advisory Council on Indigenous Education

The Committee was informed that last year, the Policy/Program Committee approved the formation of a sub-committee, the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education. The purpose of the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education (ACIE) is to communicate and provide feedback to the Policy/Program Committee on all matters relating to the teaching, learning and cultural needs of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in the Winnipeg School Division.

The membership includes two trustee representatives from the Policy/Program Committee, and one trustee representative from the Finance/Personnel Committee, as well as the Chair of Board of Trustees who acts as an ex-officio member of the Council. The membership also includes the Division's elders, administration, and six members of the parent/business/community representatives. At a meeting held November 7th, 2016, the Committee appointed Trustee Broughton as Chair of the ACIE, and Trustees Koshelanyk and Naylor as representatives.

The Committee was informed that the Indigenous Education Collaborative Blueprint was signed in December 2015. All educational partners in Manitoba are participating in identifying practices and models of Indigenous education across the early, middle, senior and post-secondary years.

The Committee was informed that the Winnipeg School Division has supported Indigenous Education through providing a variety of programs and services to students/families in schools.

The Committee was informed that the members of the Board of Trustees would be interested in receiving feedback on the current practices or models that your school promotes in the best interests of Indigenous students and communities in WSD and any suggestions on practices that you would like the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education to explore in the future. Committee members were informed that feedback could be directed to the Board Office at 1577 Wall Street East, Winnipeg, MB R3E 2S5 or by email at board@wsd1.org.

The Committee was informed that the discussion would continue at a spring District Advisory Committee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

DEAN KOSHELANYK
Trustee Representative

North District Advisory Committee Report No. 3-2016**IN ATTENDANCE:****Voting Representatives:**

Beth Mason, Andrew Mynarski School
Danielle Kopychanski, Champlain School
Chanda Bergson, Faraday School
Marleen Pollok, Garden Grove School
Isaac Newton School
Lynn Kammerlock, École Lansdowne
Jennifer Jimenez, Lord Nelson School
Catherine Harder, Luxton School
Jennifer Mitchell, Meadows West School
Bernice Rempel, St. John's High School
Sharon Machinski, Sisler High School
Christine Klajncar, Stanley Knowles School
Sheri Pimentel, Tyndall Park School

Regrets:

Inkster School
Prairie Rose School
Ralph Brown School
Robertson School

Trustees:

Dean Koshelanyk
Chris Broughton

Administration:

Fatima Mota Superintendent
Greg Bouchard, Principal, Andrew Mynarski School
Lisa Hasselfield, Principal, Champlain School
Ryan Hughes, Principal, Isaac Newton School
Susan Darazsi, Vice-Principal, Isaac Newton School
Sandy Stevenson, Principal, Lord Nelson School
Susan Christiuk, Principal, Ralph Brown School
Doug Taylor, Principal, St. John's High School
Marsha Missyabit, Vice-Principal, St. John's High School
Joan Fransen, Vice-Principal, St. John's High School
George Heshka, Principal, Sisler High School
Madalynne Iannone, Vice-Principal, Sisler High School
Joy Perrott, Vice-Principal, Stanley Knowles School
Garth McAlpine, Vice-Principal, Tyndall Park School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Christine Turnbull, Family Dynamics