

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2016

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 30, 2016

The French Immersion Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2017/2018 Budget Development

The Committee received a video presentation on 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 Winnipeg School Division budget. The second major source of funding is from revenue property taxation which provides an additional 36% of the total revenue. The remaining two percent is revenue from other sources such as the federal government, First Nations authorities and other school divisions who use Winnipeg School Division resources.

The Committee was informed that 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.

French Immersion Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2016

Trustee Wasyliw informed the Committee that the Board continues advocating all levels of government for additional funding.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Division supports French Language programs and is working hard to recruit teachers specialized in the French language. Staff attend recruitment seminars to assist in recruiting teachers who are fluent in both languages. The demand is high to find teachers who are strong in both standard French and English.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Winnipeg School Division owns its own fleet of school buses and maintenance yard. Committee members were informed the salaries of bus drivers were re-aligned with industry standard in order to sustain quality employees. The Committee was informed on possible cost savings measures for transportation services including hub/shuttle services as a way to control costs and improve efficiency. As part of the 2015/2016 budget development process, administration explored the implications of congregated/community stops. This approach would require students to walk to a local school or designated community bus stop to be picked-up by the bus that would transport them to the school they attend. The Division seen a cost savings of approximately \$300,000 as a result of three schools piloting staggered start times. Trustee Wasyliw informed Committee members that the WSD does not have the resources available at this time to extend busing to include higher grades. The Committee was informed that administrators are reviewing options such as walking school buses, or the placement of an adult crossing guard where appropriate as a cost saving measure.

Trustee Wasyliw informed the Committee that the Division is committed to providing programs and services to improve student success and eliminate barriers to learning.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that in 2001 the number of school divisions in Manitoba was reduced from 54 to 37 by merging certain divisions and creating new division boundaries. The Committee was informed that costs actually increased due to standardizing salaries and programs and services.

The Committee discussed the possibility of schools fundraising alongside other schools that may not have had great success in fundraising efforts in the past.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that the school breakfast programs are funded by Healthy Child Manitoba and the Division.

The Committee supported the idea of having a full day language program integrated into a full day Kindergarten. The Committee was informed that the staffing shortage plays a part in accommodating a full day language program in Kindergarten.

 French Immersion Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2016

The Committee discussed the new developments being built around the city and whether the increase from those taxes assist the school division. Trustee Wasyliw informed the Committee that the Division faces further challenges as downtown growth is promoted, as businesses receive a break in property taxes under the Tax Increment Funding Act, where the Division may not see an increase in property taxes for up to 25 years.

The Committee expressed an interest in additional milieu schools and enquired if a new Language Advisory Committee will be created to include other languages provided in the Winnipeg School Division.

In response to an enquiry, Trustee Wasyliw informed the Committee that a proposal has been submitted to the Board to add a swim to survive program in schools. Reports show there are a certain high risk groups in our society who have a greater chance of drowning. New comers are four times more likely to be unable to swim than those born in Canada.

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. The Committee was advised that the members of the Board are interested in receiving pre budget feedback.

2. 2016/2017 District Advisory Committee Dates

The following dates have been approved for the Advisory Committee meetings 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

3. 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 Winnipeg School Division and any suggestions on practices that you would like the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education to explore in the future. The Committee was 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.

French Immersion Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2016

IN ATTENDANCE:

Representatives:

Julie Strong, Collège Churchill
Cara McDougall, École George V School
Sharon Kirk, École Secondaire Kelvin High School
Maria Fernandes, École Lansdowne
Lucy Payette, École Laura Secord School
Stacy Huard, École LaVérendrye
Paula Leslie, École Riverview School

Alternate Representatives

Sabrina Lusty, École George V School

Regrets:

Trustee Chris Broughton
École Garden Grove School
École Robert H. Smith School
École Sacré-Coeur

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Planning & System Services
Nelía Husack, Principal, École Victoria-Albert School
Vince Audino, Principal, École Lansdowne
Dominique Ostermann, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith School
Lorraine Spence, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Brittany Morrison, WANTE Representative

Trustees:

Mark Wasyliw