

**THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION**  
**FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, May 2, 2019**

---

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

As there were seven voting representatives in attendance and eight were required to form a quorum, the parent representatives agreed to proceed with an informal meeting.

**2. 2019/2020 FINAL BUDGET**

Committee members received an overview of the budget for the 2019/2020 school year.

The final budget approved by the Board of Trustees includes expenditures of \$417,444,400 for the fiscal period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Complying with Provincial government guidelines, the Board has approved a 2% increase to the special requirement resulting in a 2.45%, or \$35 a year, increase on property taxes for taxpayers within WSD boundaries. This is based on the average assessed value of \$214,200 on a home in WSD.

Committee members were informed that although there was a favorable response to increase to 2.9% amongst all advisory committees, due to direction from the Minister of Education, the Board agreed to comply with the direction to maintain the special requirement to 2%. Committee members were informed that with only a 2% increase, there will not be any additions or any reductions to programs.

Committee members were informed that the Board has made several attempts to communicate with the Province. The Board is dedicated to continue advocating on behalf of the Division and students to ensure education funding and the needs of our communities are sufficiently met.

Committee members were informed that if the 2% is held for the 2020/2021 school year, the cost of maintaining programs will not be sustainable; therefore, there may be cuts on some programs.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that there were no cuts to teaching positions.

The members of the Board appreciate all feedback in the development of the 2019/2020 budget.

**3. PROVINCIAL K-12 EDUCATION REVIEW**

Committee members were informed that on January 23, 2019, the Province of Manitoba announced a New Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education. Nine Commissioners will guide a comprehensive, independent review of Manitoba's Education System.

The Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education is requesting feedback on the future of the educational system in Manitoba.

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, May 2, 2019

- 2 -

---

Committee members were informed that the Commission will consult with students, parents, educators, school boards, academics, Indigenous organizations, la Francophonie, municipal councils, professional organizations, the business community and members of the public from across Manitoba.

Committee members were informed that throughout the review process, the Commission will focus on:

- **A long-term vision** – Given how rapidly the world is changing, what should our goals and purpose be for Kindergarten to Grade 12 education?
- **Student learning** – How do we help our students achieve excellence?
- **Teaching** – How can we help teachers and school leaders to achieve better outcomes?
- **Accountability for student learning** – How do we develop a stronger sense of shared accountability for student learning and an understanding that every member of the education team (e.g., principals, teachers, maintenance staff, bus drivers, administration staff) has an important role to play?
- **Governance** – What governance structures do we need to put in place to make our education system more relevant and better coordinated?
- **Funding** – How do we ensure that our education system is sustainable, and that it provides equitable learning opportunities for students of all ages?

Committee members were encouraged to participate in the consultation process, which will run from February to May 2019, by submitting a written report, attending a public consultation, or filling out the online survey. Written submissions may be emailed to [K12educationcommission@gov.mb.ca](mailto:K12educationcommission@gov.mb.ca) or via mail to Manitoba's Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education 470-800 Portage Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3G 0N4. The deadline for receipt of written submissions is May 30, 2019.

Committee members were also informed that the Province is providing workshops for anyone who may be interested. The workshops will offer an informal and interactive way for Committee members to share their thoughts. The Province has indicated that the feedback will help the commission develop its recommendations as part of a comprehensive, independent review of Manitoba's elementary and secondary education system. Committee members were informed that two online surveys are available; one for the public, the second survey for teachers.

In addition, Committee members were provided with information regarding the Local Voices, Local Choices campaign which was developed by the Manitoba School Board Association to assist parents/guardians in providing responses to the Education Review Commission.

Committee members were also informed that the Province is hosting a full-day student forum scheduled on May 3<sup>rd</sup> comprised of student representatives from around Manitoba.

Committee members were informed that the Commission has added an additional workshop on May 25 at R.B. Russell School. Committee members were also informed that WSD will be presenting a brief to the Commission that will highlight the many unique programs and services provided to students.

Committee members were informed that there were many people from WSD who attended the French language workshop on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Committee members expressed concern regarding the potential risk to the French Immersion Program if there were to be an amalgamation and that the program needs to be considered in the K-12 Review.

#### **4. BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

Committee members were given an overview of the Board Advisory Committee Guidelines.

Committee members expressed concern that motions cannot be passed due to quorum requirements. Committee members were informed that this will be brought to the Board for further review. Committee members also recommended that topics for discussions should be related to the French Immersion Program/Services.

Committee members were informed that a Summary of Discussion is presented to the Board of Trustees at a future meeting for review.

#### **5. RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS/ENROLMENT/SPACE REQUIREMENTS AND PARENT SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES**

Committee members received an overview on the recruitment of French Immersion Teachers.

Committee members were informed that a Recruitment Committee was established to attend job fairs across Canada and that recruiting French Immersion teachers is a challenge in all provinces (qualifications of teachers, mentorship programs). Committee members were informed that the Recruitment Committee attended career fairs in Moncton, Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa and Sudbury with some success. Committee members were informed that part of the ongoing challenge is the hiring of teachers who have limited English. New teachers both in French and English have the opportunity to participate in the Mentorship program. Committee members were informed that the Mentorship program is a fabulous program for learning and the building of relationships that extend beyond the Mentorship program. Committee members also heard that WSD is fairly aggressive in the hiring process in offering contracts to those who are highly qualified. Committee members suggested having programs such as CATEP or a French Baccalaureate Programme. Committee members were informed that leave of absences are granted and courses are offered to teachers who are interested in improving their French.

Committee members were informed that enrollment has been sustained. Committee members were informed that once Waterford Green School is open, it will help with space requirements. Committee members were also informed that WSD is discussing the possibility of a new high school.

Committee members discussed different resources where parents can receive support by reviewing the *Canadian Parents for French Manitoba* website or the *French Immersion Provincial* website.

## **6. INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME (IB)**

Committee members were given an overview on the IB Programme at Kelvin High School.

Committee members were informed that Kelvin High School offers an IB preparatory year for Grade 10 students. Grade 10 students follow a curriculum that prepares them for future Diploma studies. In this preparatory year, students will study two languages – English and French, two mathematics courses – Manitoba Grade 10 Introduction to Applied and Pre-Calculus and Grade 11 Pre-calculus, three Science courses – Biology, Chemistry and Physics and two Social Science courses – Geography and History as well as Physical Education.

For all subjects, students are awarded percentage grades and course credits by Kelvin High School according to the standards determined by Manitoba Education. In addition, students writing IB set exams are awarded International Baccalaureate grades in July after the IB examinations are assessed throughout the world.

In response to an enquiry regarding program options, Committee members commented that WSD does not offer the IB Programme in French.

Committee members were informed that students attend up to grade 7/8 and decide to register in English Programs by grade 9. Committee members were informed that this is due to different factors, as for example, more variety of options in the English program. A Committee member suggested that WSD should establish basic objectives and to have promotional campaign around the French Immersion program.

Committee members were informed that WSD does encourage the students to continue in the French Immersion program and that late immersion has been successful at River Heights School.

A Committee member expressed concern regarding pedagogy and program space required to accommodate dual track schools. Committee members were informed that studies suggest dual track and a milieu program/schools produce the same outcomes.

Committee members requested dual track versus milieu schools be added to the agenda for discussion.

## **7. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS**

### **7.1 School Reports**

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

- École Garden Grove
- École Sir William Osler
- Sisler High School

---

**8. FOR INFORMATION**

**8.1 District Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions**

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held March 4, 2019, the Board of Trustees received the South District Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussions as information. The Summary of Discussions have been distributed to Committee members the week of March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Once reviewed by the Board, District Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

[www.winnipegssd.ca/Parents/Parent%20Council/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.winnipegssd.ca/Parents/Parent%20Council/Pages/Default.aspx)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Voting Representatives:**

École J.B. Mitchell  
École Lansdowne  
École LaVérendrye  
École River Heights  
École Riverview  
École Robert H. Smith  
École Sir William Osler

**Regrets:**

Collège Churchill  
École Garden Grove  
École George V  
École secondaire Kelvin  
École Laura Secord  
École Stanley Knowles  
École Victoria-Albert

**Administration:**

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services  
Graca Do Coto Moreira, Vice-Principal, École Garden Grove  
Rhona Churman, Principal, École Laura Secord  
Grant Bridgeman, Principal, École Riverview  
Matt Couture, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith  
Dominique Ostermann, Principal, École Sir William Osler  
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary, Board Office

**Trustees:**

Trustee Jamie Dumont  
Trustee Linda Schatkowsky

## École Garden Grove School French Immersion Advisory Report

- Every month at Garden Grove is a very busy one, with many activities for our students, and this month is no exception. Here are some of the extracurricular events going on at Garden Grove:
  - Skating Club
  - Mini-Olympics
  - Grade 1/2 Lunch Club
  - Music Festival
  - French Cultural Activities with Jacques Chenier
  - Festival du voyageur
  - Orff Club
  - STEAM in both French and English
  - Destination Imagination

We would like to recognize all the hard work our staff does to conduct, organize and teach these activities with an already very busy teaching schedule.

- In order to provide exposure to the French language and cultural activities beyond the four classroom walls and beyond academic language, we have had Jacques Chenier come and perform at our school in December
- Our students are busy getting ready for our Concours d'art Oratoire which will take place on Friday March 1
- Every week our students write Devinettes/ Riddles in French and announce a clue everyday on announcements. Everyone gets really involved in trying to figure out the riddle even the students in the English classes
- The grades 4-6 FI classes attended Festival du Voyageur this year
- Many of our classes attended field trips to Oak Hammock Marsh, and the Museum of Manitoba  
Our school is a very active one

Respectfully submitted

**School Report from École Sir William Osler  
French Immersion Advisory, May 2, 2019**

**École Sir William Osler Priorities include:**

1. Students will develop a greater depth of understanding related to the strategies and processes in reading and writing in order to independently engage in independent and innovative learning.
  2. Students will develop a greater depth of understanding related to the strategies and processes in numeracy and mental math in order to independently engage in independent and innovative learning.
  3. Students will develop an increased awareness of the seven scientific processes skills (classifying, observing, measuring, inferring, predicting, communicating, experimenting) in order to apply them to the learning of new knowledge in scientific studies and other related content curriculum.
- Artist in the school- Fubuki Daiko coming May 13-17
  - Bus Ridership took place
  - Classroom renovations starting in the summer
  - Community clean-up. Pitch-in week April 29-May 3 [www.pitch-in.ca](http://www.pitch-in.ca).
  - Concours d'art oratoire- 2 students will be representing the WSD at provincials on May 4
  - Grandparents Tea May 9
  - Gym floor renovations scheduled to start May 13
  - Mad Science for gr 1-4
  - Playground enhancement- PAC sub-committee well underway in planning for playground enhancements. Starting with school beautification this spring in the front of the school.
  - Running club starting
  - School Planning Day 2019-2020 on Friday April 26, 2019 at Fort Whyte
  - Swimming counts takes place May 2, 9, 16 for the gr 4 students
  - Volunteer Tea May 23
  - Walk-a-thon May 24
  - Welcome to Kindergarten 5:30 April 30
  - Year-End Picnic June 20<sup>th</sup>. PAC hard at work at organizing

## **FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **SISLER HIGH SCHOOL REPORT**

A French-Immersion student from Sisler High School has been invited by the University Health Network (UHN) to visit the Krembil Research Institute in Toronto on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding his contribution to Cancer Research. The student has utilized his computer talent to configure one of the world's largest cancer research data processing centers within a secondary school by recycling enterprise server equipment. To date, he has contributed years of scientific research through IBM's World Community Grid, which supports the Mapping Cancer Makers Project at the Krembil Research Institute. The student will be meeting with program lead Dr. Jurisica and his research team along with various members of the Krembil Research Institute and IBM World Community Grid during his visit to Toronto. Both the UHN and IBM have stated this is a historic event for their organization.