

**INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2020**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

December 9, 2020

The Inner City District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. Election of Committee Chair**

The Committee was informed that at a Board meeting, Trustee Yijie (Jennifer) Chen was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Betty Edel was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from General Wolfe volunteered to Chair the meeting.

**2. WSD 2021/2022 Budget Consultation**

The Committee received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2021/2022 school year.

The Committee was informed that the Budget is developed based on the WSD Strategic Plan that aligns with the vision to be engaged, confident, inspired and successful learners. The Committee was informed that the development of the budget includes students, learning outcomes, employing qualified caring and competent staff, practicing sustainable development, and building relationships.

The Committee was informed that the Board is committed to obtaining feedback from school communities, parent councils, residents and staff groups for the 2021/2022 budget.

The Committee was informed that this year, the members of the Board are interested in receiving feedback on school resources that may be required to fulfil educational mandate and the most important issue for schools, and whether the parent council favour an increase in property taxes if required to support programming.

The Committee discussed and agreed that most parents would support a two percent increase to ensure schools and students have access to programs and supports, however, the current economy in the middle of a pandemic may make it challenging for some families.

Trustee Edel recommended that parent representative share the budget information with their respective parent councils and provide feedback to the Board on the three questions outlined in the budget brochure. The Committee was informed that all feedback will be considered by the Board throughout the Budget process. Parent Councils are encouraged to submit feedback to Ms. Brenda Lapointe at [brlapointe@wsd1.org](mailto:brlapointe@wsd1.org) or online at [www.winnipegssd.ca/budget](http://www.winnipegssd.ca/budget).

**3. Renaming of Cecil Rhodes School**

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees approved a motion on October 5, 2020, that the administration begin a consultation process to engage students, parents/guardians and members of the community on the interest of renaming of Cecil Rhodes School and that the results of the consultation be provided to the Board of Trustees no later than March 15th, 2021.

The Committee was informed that the request to review the name of Cecil Rhodes School was in response to a petition with 1,700 signatures requesting that the Board of Trustees consider a name change. The Committee was informed that while the history of Cecil Rhodes includes an acknowledgement of business contributions and achievements, he is also known for his involvement and support in politics which upheld segregationist policies against non-white citizens of South Africa.

The Committee was informed that the administration is in the process of obtaining feedback from a variety of stakeholders. The consultation process will include current students attending Cecil Rhodes School as well as former students. The students will receive the history of Cecil Rhodes and have an opportunity to discuss the name of the school and share different perspectives.

The administration will also be consulting with staff, parents, and the community to obtain feedback. The WSD website will provide an opportunity for people to complete a survey to provide feedback.

The Committee was also informed that the administration will establish a Cecil Rhodes School - Renaming Committee consisting of the Superintendent of Education Services, two parents, two students, the principal and the Director of Buildings, based on the results of the school and community feedback. The Committee was encouraged to discuss this matter with their respective parent councils and submit feedback to the Board for consideration.

**4. School Resource Officers**

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees received presentations, petitions and correspondence from individuals requesting the removal of SRO's in schools mainly due to their role, and interactions with students. As a result, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the School Resource Officer Program (SRO) be referred to the Finance/Personnel Committee for discussion. On November 16, 2020, the Board of Trustees gave direction to the administration to develop a comprehensive consultation process to evaluate the SRO program.

The Committee was informed that the administration is in the process of developing a survey to obtain feedback from students, staff and parents/guardians. A third party will be retained to consult with WSD community members and organizations to collect and compile feedback on the SRO Program.

Several parents indicated that they believe the School Resource Officer program is an essential service provided in schools.

Trustee Edel informed the Committee that an evaluation of the program is underway to ensure input from all stakeholders. It is anticipated that the evaluation will be completed in February/March, 2021.

The Committee was encouraged to share this information with their parent councils. Feedback on the SRO program can be submitted directly to the Board and Community Liaison Officer at [brlapointe@wsd1.org](mailto:brlapointe@wsd1.org).

Respectfully Submitted,

YIJIE CHEN  
Trustee Representative

**In Attendance:**

**Voting Representatives**

Argyle Alternative High School  
Children of the Earth School  
General Wolfe School  
Hugh John Macdonald School  
King Edward School  
Mulvey School  
Niji Mahkwa School  
R.B. Russell High School  
Sister MacNamara School  
William Whyte School

**Regrets**

David Livingstone School  
Dufferin School  
Fort Rouge School  
Gordon Bell High School  
Machray School  
Norquay School  
Pinkham School  
Strathcona School  
Victoria-Albert School  
Wellington School

**Administration:**

Fatima Mota, Superintendent  
Rob Riel, Director  
Patricia Mainville, Principal Argyle Alternative High School  
Nichola Batzel, Principal Children of the Earth High School  
Stacie Edgar, Principal Fort Rouge School  
Vinh Huynh, Principal Gordon Bell High School  
Matthew Adkins, Principal Hugh John Macdonald School  
Lucy Schnaider, Principal John M. King School  
Peter Correia, Principal Mulvey School  
Debbie Gould, Principal Niji Mahkwa School  
Debbie Lenhardt Mair, Principal Sister MacNamara School  
Susan Darazsi, Principal Strathcona School  
Brenda Langton, Principal Wellington School  
Wendy Verbong Principal William Whyte School  
Tarin Howard, Recording Secretary

**Trustees:**

Jennifer Chen  
Betty Edel