

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, November 30, 2016

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Mark Wasyliw welcomed everyone to the first French Advisory Committee meeting for the 2016/17 school year. At the Inaugural meeting of the Board held on September 12, 2016, Trustee Mark Wasyliw was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Chris Broughton was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

Parent representatives from Riverview volunteered to Chair the French Immersion Advisory Committee for the 2016/2017 term.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee members approved the Agenda of November 30, 2016.

4. 2017/2018 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Committee members received a video presentation on the 2017/2018 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that the Board developed the Budget in support of Winnipeg School Division Strategic Plan.

Committee members were 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.

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

Committee members 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.

Committee members were 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.

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Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that the provincial funding announcement is expected from mid-January to mid-February.

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

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were 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, Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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 Committee members that the Division is committed to providing programs and services to improve student success and eliminate barriers to learning.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that costs actually increased due to standardizing salaries and programs and services.

Committee members also 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, Committee members were informed that the school breakfast programs are funded by Healthy Child Manitoba and the Division.

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

Committee members discussed the new developments being built around the city and whether the increase from those taxes assist the school division. Trustee Wasyliw informed Committee members 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.

Committee members 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 Committee members 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.

Committee members were 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.winnipeg.ca. Committee members were advised that the members of the Board are interested in receiving pre budget feedback.

5. 2016/2017 DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DATES

The following dates have been approved for the French Immersion 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.

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.

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

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

6. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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.

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

Committee members were 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. 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.

Committee members were informed that the discussion would continue at a spring District Advisory Committee meeting.

7. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- École Robert H. Smith

École Lansdowne

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Committee members were also informed of the following events at Lansdown School

- Students attended Inner City Science Center
- Nursery had a performance from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
- School had a Remembrance Day Performance from the Teacher's Band
- Attendance to Pride Conference was 96%
- Students and staff collected 3 large bins of food for Winnipeg Harvest
- Organizing a week of giving – collecting food for families in need

8. FOR INFORMATION

8.1 5Manitoba 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 2016/17 school year.

8.2 Our School Newspaper

Committee members were informed about the pilot project to reduce the number of printed copies of Our Schools Newspaper and increasing access to families by creating a subscription link to the Division website.

<https://www.winnipegssd.ca/About%20WSD/NEWS/OurSchools/Pages/SubscribeToOurSchools.aspx>

8.3 Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees

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

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the French Immersion Advisory Committee will be held Thursday, March 2, 2017.

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
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 Wasyliv



École Robert H. Smith PAG

November Newsletter

November 2016



Important Dates

- Next PAG Meetings:
Dec 5, 2016
Mar 6, 2017
Apr 24, 2017
- Winter Break:
Dec 23 - Jan 6
- Last day to submit gift card fundraiser orders:
Nov 17, 2016

Welcome to November

In some ways it's hard to believe that the middle of November is already upon us. However, when looking back at last few months, we have accomplished a lot since the beginning of the school year. In just two and a half months, we have had three fundraisers, a Halloween dance, elected new PAG board members, and of course, built a new play structure!

The PAG would like to thank all parent volunteers who have shared their time, skills, and talents to make the beginning of this school year full of community spirit. Some of you have held hands during vaccinations, others have supervised field trips, some have tested hearing of kindergarteners and new students, and some of you helped host an amazing school-wide Halloween dance.

Thank you to all for making each of these events a success!

See you at these upcoming events: Fun Lunches, Book Fair, Enviro-A-Thon, and Vision Screening.

2016/2017 Parents Advisory Group Board



The PAG has new faces this year. We would like to introduce you to the 2016/2017 École Robert H. Smith School Parents Advisory Group.

Executive Committee

Jill Condra
James Wright
Audrey McNab & Melissa Harrison
VACANT

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Co-treasurer
Secretary

Fun Lunch Committee

Melanie Dorrington
Kate Franklin
Vicki Shalley

Promotions and Fundraising

Julie Garcia

Family Dance Director

Lia Wright

Volunteer Recruitment and Activities

Jocelyne Teskey

Environment / Sustainable Development

Julie Garcia (Chair)
Gail Johnston
Megan McCarthy
Kerri McCurdy

Staff Appreciation

Anji Petruzelli

South District Advisor

Terry Wuerz

Communications

Andrew Stobart

Want to join the PAG?

We are currently looking to fill the following two positions for the 2016/2017 school year. If you are interested, please reach out to us at rhspag@gmail.com.

The PAG is a great way to keep informed and help shape the learning environment at our school. Your commitment to the PAG is significant in impact, but relatively low on time commitment. We encourage you to explore the open positions, come out to the next meeting, and join us in keeping École Robert H. Smith School a fantastic place to learn and grow.

Secretary (2 year term, renewed in May of even-numbered years)

- take minutes at PAG meeting and submit to chair for distribution with 3 days of a meeting
- member of executive committee
- holds signing authority
- take attendance record at PAG meeting and daycare at the school during the PAG meetings
- arrange babysitting as required
- ensuring that meeting agendas and supplemental reports are printed in advance of the meeting
- coordinating and printing notices of PAG meetings for the school doors
- ensuring chair and/or vice-chair have reached out to committees about 10-12 days in advance of the meeting for agenda items and reports

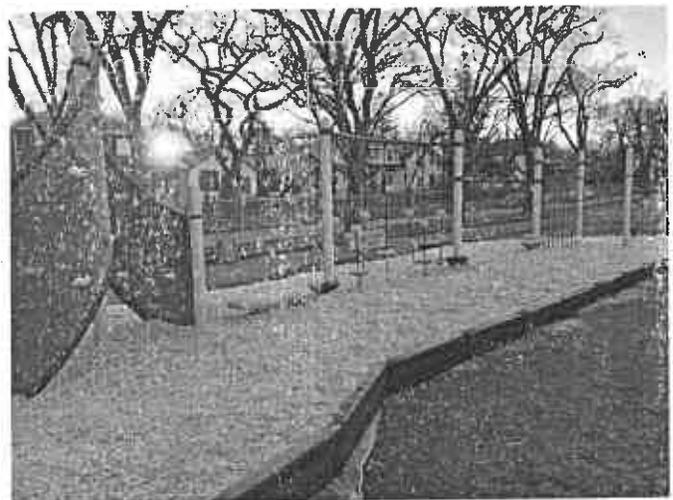
French Language Coordinator

- attend WSD meetings concerning French Language & report back to the PAG
- prepare annual report to the PAG
- prepare reports for PAG meetings as necessary
- Speaking French is not a requirement

Playground Update

Our new play structure is ready for the kids! On November 8th, the fences came down around the new obstacle course structure. This is part of phase 2 of the Playground Enhancement Project, and also includes additional benches and shade trees.

There is also a buddy bench that we are very excited about. For those unfamiliar, the buddy bench idea has been around for some time in Europe, and has exploded in popularity in North America over the last few years. The idea is that children who are looking for playmates can sit on the bench as a signal that they would like someone to come and play with them.



PAG Gift Card Fundraiser

The PAG is raising funds for the Robert H. Smith Performing Arts and Music Program.

This fundraiser allows us to purchase GIFT CARDS at face value, and a percentage of every card purchased is contributed to our PAG. It costs you nothing extra, but funds are earned for our group. Many of the retailers are ones you shop at every week.

Who are the participating retailers? There are lots of choices from Aldo to Walmart, and everything in-between. Below is only a small subset of retailers that are participating.



Orders can be placed online at <http://rhs.hotlunches.net>. Note that only 1 order can be submitted per student. If you would prefer a paper order form, those can be picked up at the school office. Gift cards will be delivered to the school the first week of December.

Last day for orders is **NOVEMBER 17, 2016**.

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 [@rhsParents](https://twitter.com/rhsParents)

 <http://roberthsmithpag.weebly.com>

Have a thought, suggestion, idea, or just want to say hi? We can always be reached at rhspag@gmail.com.