

INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2019

To the Chair and Members

Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 13, 2019

The Inner City District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2019/2020 Draft Budget Discussion

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide an overview of the 2019/2020 Draft Budget. The Committee was informed that on January 9, 2019, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The increase for all of Manitoba for 2019/2020 is 0.5% or \$6.6 million dollars. The Committee was informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division which is based on enrollment equals a decrease of 0.1% or \$202,963 over last year's funding.

The Committee was informed that the Minister of Education encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2.0%. The Committee was informed that special requirement is based on the school year and property taxes are based on a calendar year. The Committee was informed that a 3.0% special requirement equals a 2.9% property tax increase or \$41 on average assessed home at \$214,200. The Committee was informed that the Provincial funding for education is based on several factors including student enrolment, capital costs, equalization payments and the phase out of the Tax Incentive Grant.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is requesting feedback on the following budget additions; autism clinical psychologist, day programs supports for students with exceptional needs, additional Early Childhood Inclusive Needs Support, Sound Field Systems, enhanced Wi-Fi, pilot video conference course, expanding Full Day Kindergarten programs, data analytics software, technology, school grounds maintenance and Lunch Program Coordinator.

The Committee was also informed that the Division provides many programs/services for students that are not provincially funded as follows: Intercultural Support Workers, Library Technical Assistants, Computer Technicians, Adult Crossing Guards, School Resource Officers, off campus programs, Home Learning Assistants for Early School Years, Library and Support Services, therapy services, summer school, nutrition programs, nursery, arts performances, special events and programs, milk subsidy, and Attendance Officers. These programs/services cost \$11,415,173 and are areas the Board of Trustees may have to find cost savings if required.

The Committee discussed the role of the Lunch Program Coordinator. The Committee was also informed that WSD has a Food Issues Committee that explores concerns regarding the lunch programs.

The Committee expressed support for School Resource Officers (SRO) in schools as they provide safety for students and staff. In addition, the SROs continue to work towards building and supporting the Indigenous Community. The Committee agreed that the SRO Program should continue in WSD even though the Province may not commit additional funds for the program.

The Committee agreed that should reductions be required to balance the budget, the expansion of Full Day Kindergarten sites, summer school and the nursery program should be areas the Board may want to reconsider.

Overall, the Committee supported a 2.9% property tax increase in order to maintain programs and services. There was an overall agreement that more information is needed on programs/ services not funded by the Province before prioritizing cuts or additions.

The Committee was informed that the Board advocates on behalf of the Division to continue discussions with the Province and seek alternatives to education funding. The Committee was encouraged to contact their MLA, Premier or Minister of Education to share their opinions of education funding.

Respectfully Submitted,

YIJIE CHEN
Trustee Representative

Inner City District Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2019**IN ATTENDANCE:****Voting Representatives:**

Children of the Earth
David Livingstone School
Dufferin School
General Wolfe School
Gordon Bell High School
Hugh John Macdonald
John M. King School
Machray School
Mulvey School
Niji Mahkwa School
R.B. Russell High School
Sister MacNamara School
Strathcona School
Wellington School
William Whyte School

Regrets:

Trustee Cindy Murdoch
Argyle Alternative High School
Norquay School
Pinkham School
Victoria-Albert School

Non-Voting/Resource Members

Community Support Worker, Children of the Earth
Community Support Worker, Strathcona School
Community Support Worker, King Edward School
Community Support Worker, Mulvey School
Community Support Worker, Sister MacNamara School
Community Support Worker, William Whyte School
Community Support Worker, R.B. Russell School

Administration:

Rob Riel, Acting Superintendent of Education Services
Tim Cox, Acting Director, Enrichment & Science
Wayne Wyke, Acting Director
Paul Kochan, Chief Financial Officer & Secretary-Treasurer
Paul Krowiak, Principal, Argyle Alternative High School
Pat Mainville, Principal, David Livingstone School
Lisa Richardson, Vice-Principal, David Livingstone School
Melissa Asmundson, Vice-Principal, Dufferin School
Stacie Edgar, Principal, Fort Rouge School
Jim Anastasiadis, Acting Vice-Principal, Gordon Bell High School
Fernando Batista, Vice-Principal, John M. King School
Tanis Westdal, Principal, Machray School
Debbie Gould, Principal, Niji Mahkwa School
Jacqueline Connell, Principal, R.B. Russell High School
Susan Darazsi, Principal, Strathcona School
Cinzia Caputo, Principal, William Whyte School
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Trustee Yijie Chen
Trustee Lisa Naylor
Trustee Arlene Reid
Trustee Betty Edel
Trustee Linda Schatkowsky