

**FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2018**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 28, 2018

Your French Immersion Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. Approval of Agenda**

A New Business item regarding French Immersion administration and the Assistant Deputy Education Minister for French-language education was added to the agenda. The Committee approved the amended Agenda of February 28, 2018.

**2. 2018/2019 Draft Budget Discussion**

The Committee was provided with an overview of the 2018/2019 Draft Budget.

The Committee was informed that on February 8, 2017, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The increase for all of Manitoba for 2018/2019 is .5% or \$6.6 million dollars. The Committee was informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division is tied to the number of students enrolled in the Division and equals an increase of .3% or \$600,000 over last year's funding.

The Committee was informed that the Division's costs increase every year due to inflation on required expenses such as Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance Premiums and Payroll Taxes. The Committee was informed that even with the Province's introduction of wage freezes for public sector employees, including teachers, salary increments earned by Division staff must be accounted for in the 2018/2019 budget.

The Committee was informed that the Minister encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2%. 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 provided with three possible options based on meeting a 2% or 3% special requirement.

The Committee was informed that one option is a 2% special requirement or 3.29% property tax and is based on proposed additions for Health and Safety enhancements, additional resources for program and policy analysis and no reductions to existing programs and services.

The Committee was informed that an alternative option is a 2% special requirement or 3.29% property tax increase and is based on proposed additions for additional resources for program and policy analysis, financial software expenditures, building maintenance, school specialty programming promotional signage, additional teaching support for the Aerospace Program at Tec Voc High School, Health and Safety enhancements, online course delivery and school program additions such as additional funding to support students in care who are 18 to 21 years of age, Morningstar program, Inner City Science Centre. The Committee was informed that proposed reductions to this option include discontinuing the School Resource Officer program, Full-Day Kindergarten program reduction to half-day, converting summer school program to an online course delivery model, reduction of travel budgets and vacancy management.

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The Committee was informed that a third option is a 3% special requirement or 3.71% property tax increase and is based on proposed additions such as additional resources for program and policy analysis, building maintenance, school specialty programming promotional signage, additional teaching support for the Aerospace Program at Tec Voc High School, Health and Safety enhancements, online course delivery and school program additions such as additional funding to support students in care who are 18 to 21 years of age, Morningstar program, Inner City Science Centre. This option is based on no reductions to existing programs and services.

The Committee was informed that a 2% special requirement or 3.29% increase on property taxes for education is approximately \$45 per year on the average assessed home value of \$214,200.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Province's direction to limit special requirement increase to 2% is not a legal requirement. The Committee was informed that in order to retain valuable programs and services and with the rate of inflation it is difficult to limit the increase to 2% without reductions to programs and services.

In response to a parent enquiry, the Committee was informed that at a meeting held October 2, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the Division enter into a three-year contract with the City of Winnipeg for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program for the period September 2017 to June 2020.

The Division, the Province and the City of Winnipeg are each responsible for paying one-third of the program, and although not required under the Public Schools Act, the Division is required to increase the Special Levy to support this valuable program and provide the much needed resources that keep our school communities safe for our students.

Although the Province informed the Division that no further funding would be forthcoming, the Board has requested a meeting with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Justice to discuss the importance of the School Resource Officer Program, the financial impact on school divisions and the importance of the Department of Justice to financially support the educational component of justice through the SROs in the public school system and community.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that there are currently nine police officers employed and service all 78 Division schools and their communities.

The Committee suggested employing cadets as a cost-saving measure while retaining a police presence in the community.

The Committee expressed the importance in having equity in Division programs such as Nursery, Full Day Kindergarten, School Resource Officers by having these programs placed in communities that have a greater socioeconomic need.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Division's administration cost is below the provincial mandate.

The Committee suggested that implementing additional Full-Day Kindergarten programs can result in a decrease of transportation costs.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that the International Education Program will result in a net revenue of \$501,900. The Committee was informed that the program has been growing with the increased interest of international students. The Committee was informed that the Division has entered into an agreement with Canada Home Stay Network and that residents would have the opportunity to earn income by hosting international students.

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.

The Committee was informed that the Budget presentation is available on the Winnipeg School Division's website along with a property tax calculator and survey.

The Committee was informed that in addition to budget presentations at District Advisory Committee meetings, information is available on the Division's website. A Public meeting was also held on February 26, 2018 at Administration Building No. 1, 1577 Wall Street East at 7:00 p.m. to provide budget information to the general public and receive feedback from individuals or groups that may wish to attend. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 5, 2018. All feedback will be considered by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 12, 2018.

### **3. Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils**

The Committee was informed that at a previous meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the motion that on an interim basis, Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be revised to include provisions for Courtesy Transportation Services and that the Board would continue its review of the Fee for Service option for possible implementation in the 2018/2019 school year.

The Committee was informed that at a meeting held February 5, 2018, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the revised Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be distributed to District Advisory Committees for discussion.

The Committee received the revised policy which includes provisions for a fee-for-service, and processing fee for those students who meet the criteria under the Courtesy Seat provision. The revisions also include clarification on areas deemed hazardous.

The Committee was informed that the revised policy includes a fee for service cost that would be equivalent to the new City of Winnipeg rates at \$70 per month for a student transit bus pass. The new fees would include a reduced fee of \$35 per month for each additional child effective the 2018/2019 school year. In addition, the policy includes a non-refundable \$25 fee be applied to process applications for those who do not meet eligibility requirements and are applying under the Courtesy Seat / Fee for Service option.

The Committee was informed that the policy also includes a provision for identifying hazardous area considerations, and that the schools identified as a hazard area are to be reviewed by the Transportation Department on an annual basis.

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In response to an enquiry on transportation, the Committee was informed that at a previous meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the motion that on an interim basis, Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be revised to include provisions for Courtesy Transportation Services and that the Board would continue its review of the Fee for Service option for possible implementation in the 2018/2019 school year. The Committee expressed that an option to pay a fee for the service on an existing route would benefit families.

**4. School Names**

In the spring of the 2017, the Committee received a copy of the Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area guideline as well as the biographies of school names. Parent representatives were encouraged to share this information with their respective Parent Advisory Committees and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

The Committee was reminded that parents and school representatives review the background of their school's name and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

The Committee received a copy of the guideline Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area as well as the biographies of school names. The Committee was informed that school's history may be found on the Division's website at [www.winnipegdsd.ca](http://www.winnipegdsd.ca) under the heading *Our Schools*.

**5. French Immersion Administration**

The Committee expressed a concern on French Immersion program staffing. The Committee was informed that a Strategic priority is to retain and attract valued staff. The Committee was informed that the Division advertises French Immersion administration positions externally as well as has made changes to staffing procedures, holds recruitment fairs and recruits across the country.

**6. Assistant Deputy Minister for French Language Education**

The Committee expressed a concern on the loss of the Assistant Deputy Education Minister for French-language education. The Committee was informed that staff in the Bureau de l'éducation française within the department of education have been transferred to other jobs while some vacancies have not been filled.

The Committee was informed that there will be a meeting held March 7, 2018 hosted by Partners for French Education at the Caboto Centre. More information on this meeting can be found on the Manitoba Teachers' Society website.

Respectfully Submitted,

MARK WASYLIW  
Trustee Representative

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**French Immersion Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2018****IN ATTENDANCE:****Voting Representatives:**

Scott Colburn, École Garden Grove School  
Heather Pachet, École J.B. Mitchell School  
Debbie Purganan, École Lansdowne  
Joelle Remillard, École LaVérendrye/River Heights  
Michael Harrison, École Sir William Osler  
Natalia Klumper, École Stanley Knowles School

**Parent Representatives**

École Robert H. Smith School parent representative

**Regrets:**

Collège Churchill  
École secondaire Kelvin High School  
École Riverview School  
École Sacré-Coeur  
École Victoria-Albert School

**Administration:**

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services  
Julie Smerchanski, Director of Assessment & Instructional Support Services  
Graca Do Coto Moreira, Vice-Principal, École Garden Grove School  
Matthew Couture, Vice-Principal, École Laura Secord School  
Ruth Schappert, Principal, École LaVérendrye  
Chantelle Deslauriers, Principal, École River Heights School  
Dominique Ostermann, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith School  
Karen Loveridge, Principal, École Sir William Osler  
Ainslie Loria, Vice-Principal, École Stanley Knowles School  
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

**Trustees:**

Mark Wasyliw  
Chris Broughton