

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2017

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

April 25, 2017

The North District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Families and Schools Together (F&ST)

The Committee received a presentation by Families and Schools Together. Families and Schools Together helps children thrive by building stronger, more supportive relationships at home. Built on evidence-based practices and rigorously tested, F&ST consistently produces statistically significant improvements in children's behavior, emotional well-being and academic performance while building social capital among families, schools and communities. Families and Schools Together, Inc. exists to make a critical difference in the midst of these challenges by empowering parents, strengthening families and creating social networks that give children the opportunity for fulfilling, productive lives.

The Committee was informed that the F&ST program runs one night a week for 8 weeks, providing transportation and meals to participating families. Children, parents and youth are separated into groups for age based activities and instruction based classes. The F&ST program also has a 2 year follow up program called Fast Works where families get together once a month for activities. The F&ST program connects families with primary school administration as well as assists in helping families get connected with community based programs.

The Committee was informed that Families and Schools Together is funded by schools, the Province of Manitoba and United Way. The program is offered for all grade levels and activities have been adjusted to meet the needs of the target child's age. Families and Schools Together programs are run by trained staff, teachers, recreation coordinator, community partners and youth advocates. Each F&ST Team forms a "hub" serving eight to 10 participating F&ST Families. Several F&ST Teams can collaborate to run multiple hubs simultaneously to serve larger populations, such as an entire grade level of children and their families.

For more information on the program or to have a presentation please contact Christine Turnbull at Families and Schools Together by email at cturnbull@familydynamics.ca or by phone at 204-947-1401.

2. Transportation of Pupils

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees passed a budget for the 2017/2018 school year which includes expenditures in the amount of \$406,594,200 for the fiscal period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. To achieve a balanced budget, the Board considered many cost savings measures, including aligning the Division's transportation policy to be consistent with the Public Schools Act and services offered by other school divisions in the City of Winnipeg.

The Committee was informed that effective September 2017, only those students who meet the distance requirements of 1.6 kilometers boundary from the school to both the residence/daycare will be eligible to receive transportation. Students who have exceptional learning needs such as social/emotional, behavioural, sensory, physical, cognitive/intellectual, communication, academic or special health-care will continue to be provided with appropriate school bus transportation. As well, students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 in a language or alternative program, and Nursery students attending one of WSD's three French immersion milieu schools or Aboriginal education school, whose residence/daycare is both 1.6 kilometers or further from the school will also continue to be provided with bus transportation.

The Committee was informed that students who do not meet the criteria noted above will no longer have an option to pay a fee for this service. Although, the Division recognizes that this will require some families to make adjustments to their daily schedules for the beginning of the 2017/2018 school year, it is important to implement these measures to ensure that all financial resources are redirected towards the classroom and programs that will enable students to be successful in their educational learning.

The Committee expressed concern that the policy may limit access to transportation for those students enrolled in Inclusive Education programs. The Committee also requested that transportation services be extended to include accessibility for wheelchair students to attend school planned and supervised trips as well as work education and community program access placements.

3. **Policy IGABA – Aboriginal Education**

The Committee was informed that the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education (ACIE), a sub-committee of the Policy/Program Committee, has undertaken a review of Policy IGABA – Aboriginal Education and is inviting parents to participate in an interactive feedback process to ensure that the policy reflects the learning needs of students and schools.

The Committee was informed that a Community Gathering will be held on Thursday, May 25th, 2017 at R. B. Russell, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Principals will be seeking 3-5 representatives from each school to attend the Gathering to participate and review the policy. At the same time, the invited parents may also wish to view the WSD Indigenous Gallery Walk displays of the work being created in our schools. The Committee was informed to contact their respective Principal should they be interested in participating in the event.

4. **School Names**

The Committee was informed that the Public Relations/Communications Committee discussed the naming of schools in the Division and will continue its review of school names in the fall. The Committee was encouraged to share this information with their respective school and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

Respectfully Submitted,

ARLENE REID
Trustee Representative

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IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Beth Mason, Andrew Mynarski School
Danielle Kopychanski, Champlain School
Marleen Pollok, Garden Grove School
Isaac Newton School
Catherine Harder, Luxton School
Jennifer Mitchell, Meadows West School
Lindsay Panchuk, Ralph Brown School
Bernice Rempel, St. John's High School
Sharon Machinski, Sisler High School
Stanley Knowles School

Regrets:

Faraday School
Inkster School
Ecole Lansdowne
Lord Nelson School
Prairie Rose School
Robertson School
Tyndall Park School

Trustees:

Mike Babinsky
Arlene Reid
Chris Broughton
Dean Koshelanyk

Administration:

Fatima Mota Superintendent
Paul Kochan, CEO & Secretary-Treasurer
Kathy Ateah, Vice-Principal, Andrew Mynarski School
Lisa Hasselfield, Principal, Champlain School
Andrea Redsky, Principal, Faraday School
Ryan Hughes, Principal, Isaac Newton School
Ken Reimer, Principal, Luxton School
Marsha Missyabit, Vice-Principal, St. John's High School
Madalynne Iannone, Vice-Principal, Sisler High School
Paul Krowiak, Vice-Principal, Sisler High School
Chris Clarke, Vice-Principal, Sisler High School
Darryl Stevenson, Principal, Stanley Knowles School
Evelyn Siddall, Vice-Principal, Stanley Knowles School
Joy Perrott, Vice-Principal, Stanley Knowles School
Gisele Mospanchuk, Principal, Tyndall Park School
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Members