

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, February 21, 2019

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

As there were six voting representatives in attendance and eight were required to form a quorum, the parent representatives agreed to proceed with an informal meeting.

2. 2019/2020 DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Committee members were provided with an overview of the 2019/2020 Draft Budget. Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division which is based on enrolment, equals an decrease of 0.1% or \$202,963 over last year's funding.

Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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 included in the 2019/2020 budget.

Committee members were informed that the Minister of Education encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2.0%. Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees is requesting feedback on the following budget additions: autism clinical psychologist, day program 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.

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were not in support of expanding the Full Day Kindergarten Program. In response to an enquiry regarding Full Day Kindergarten, Committee members were informed that the results of the pilot program would be available at the end of this year.

In response to an enquiry regarding the role of the Lunch Program Coordinator, Committee members were informed that the Lunch Program Coordinator would help Parent Councils with the business matters such as payroll and audit.

Overall, Committee members were not in agreement with the 2.9% increase as salaries are not keeping up with rate of inflation and property tax increases. Committee members supported the Non-Mandatory Programming in WSD as these programs have been successful in increasing and supporting learning abilities for students.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Division has not implemented an early retirement incentive with the exception of one time, several years ago.

Committee members agreed that the budget should maintain existing programs and services to minimize property tax increases. Committee members agreed that new or the expansion of programs and services should not be considered this year.

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

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

Committee members were informed that in addition to budget presentations at District Advisory Committee meetings, information is available on the Division's website. A Public meeting will also be held on February 25, 2019 at Administration Building N^o. 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 as well there is a survey posted on the Division's website www.winnipegssd.org. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 4, 2019. All feedback will be considered by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at the meeting to be held March 11, 2019.

3. FRENCH IMMERSION OVERVIEW/PROGRAMS/TEACHERS

At the previous meeting, Committee members requested the topic of French Immersion Programs be included on all future agendas.

The Superintendent of Education Services was in attendance to provide information regarding French Immersion Overview, Programs and Teachers. Committee members were informed that WSD has 17 schools with French Immersion Program and will be adding another program once the school in Waterford Green opens. Committee members were informed that due to an increase in enrolment, WSD has added schools where the French Immersion Program is offered.

Committee members were informed that WSD continues to pursue the recruitment of French Immersion Teachers through various methods including Job Fairs. Committee members were informed that recruitment strategies require a significant amount of resources. Committee members suggested that it would be important to understand the resources required by WSD and requested statistics in the areas of enrolment projections, retirements, staffing, program expansion to identify the type of recruitment that is required to support the program.

Committee members discussed the International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) at Kelvin High School and recommended this program be discussed at a future meeting.

Committee members were informed that some WSD graduates attended l'Université de Saint-Boniface and returned to WSD to pursue their teaching career.

Committee members discussed enrolment in the French Immersion Programs. Committee members showed concern that students attend up to grade 7/8 and decide to register in English Programs by grade 9. Committee members were informed that this is due to different factors, as for example, students make their own decisions by grade 7/8 and follow their friends. Committee members recommended that information and resources should be communicated to parents through open houses where they can speak to the principals, teachers and guidance counsellors to discuss their concerns and receive information.

Committee members agreed to add French Immersion Enrolment, Space Requirements, Parent Supports and Resources to the next agenda for discussion.

Committee members were informed that the French Immersion Principals and Vice-Principals will meet and bring the discussions to the next French Immersion meeting in May.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Board Advisory Committee Guidelines

Committee members agreed to review the Board Advisory Committee Guidelines at the next meeting in May.

5. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

5.1 School Reports

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

- École Garden Grove School

6. FOR INFORMATION

6.1 District Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 17, 2018, the Board of Trustees received the South District Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussions as information. The Summary of Discussions have been distributed to Committee members the week of December 17th.

Once reviewed by the Board, District Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

www.winnipegssd.ca/Parents/Parent%20Council/Pages/Default.aspx

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next French Immersion Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2019.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Collège Churchill
École secondaire Kelvin High School
École Lansdowne
École Laura Secord
École Robert H. Smith
École Sir William Osler

Regrets:

École Garden Grove School
École George V
École J.B. Mitchell
École LaVérendrye
École River Heights
École Riverview
École Stanley Knowles
École Victoria-Albert

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services
Rhona Churman, Principal, École Laura Secord
Dominique Ostermann, Principal, École Sir William Osler
Brad Burns, Principal, École Robert H. Smith
Paulette Huggins, Principal, École J.B. Mitchell
Linda Berry, Vice-Principal, École J.B. Mitchell
Ruth Schappert, École LaVérendrye
Matt Couture, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Trustee Jamie Dumont
Trustee Linda Schatkowsky

École Garden Grove School French Immersion Advisory Report

- Every month at Garden Grove is a very busy one, with many activities for our students, and this month is no exception. Here are some of the extracurricular events going on at Garden Grove:
 - Skating Club
 - Mini-Olympics
 - Grade 1/2 Lunch Club
 - Music Festival
 - French Cultural Activities with Jacques Chenier
 - Festival du voyageur
 - Orff Club
 - STEAM in both French and English
 - Destination Imagination

We would like to recognize all the hard work our staff does to conduct, organize and teach these activities with an already very busy teaching schedule.

- In order to provide exposure to the French language and cultural activities beyond the four classroom walls and beyond academic language, we have had Jacques Chenier come and perform at our school in December
- Our students are busy getting ready for our Concours d'art Oratoire which will take place on Friday March 1
- Every week our students write Devinettes/ Riddles in French and announce a clue everyday on announcements. Everyone gets really involved in trying to figure out the riddle even the students in the English classes
- The grades 4-6 FI classes attended Festival du Voyageur this year
- Many of our classes attended field trips to Oak Hammock Marsh, and the Museum of Manitoba
Our school is a very active one

Respectfully submitted