

**CENTRAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2015**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

April 15, 2015

Your Central District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. Structure of District Advisory Committees**

Your Committee was informed that at a meeting held November 3, 2014, the Board of Trustees adopted a motion to establish a Special Committee to Review the Existing Structure of the District Advisory Committees to improve participation and communication between the Board of Trustees, School Parent Councils and the community.

The purpose of the Special Committee is to review the existing structure of the District Advisory Committees and to improve participation and communication between the Board of Trustees, School Parent Councils and the community.

Your Committee was informed that as a result of discussions regarding the importance of parental involvement within the Winnipeg School Division, a survey has been developed to obtain feedback from parents/parent councils, District Advisory Committee members and community members to improve communication with the Board of Trustees.

Your Committee was informed that the Public Relations/Communications Committee has recommended that an area on the Division's website be developed for parent councils. This survey will also be posted on the Division's website under the newly created *Parent Council* subsection under the *Family & Community* tab.

[www.winnipegsd.ca/FAMILY%20COMMUNITY/Parent%20Council/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.winnipegsd.ca/FAMILY%20COMMUNITY/Parent%20Council/Pages/default.aspx)

Your Committee was asked to share this information with their respective parent councils and include this information and link to the survey in the upcoming May newsletter.

Your Committee was informed that feedback will be compiled and given to Trustees for consideration.

**2. Parent Group Lunch Programs**

At the previous meeting, your Committee agreed to discuss parent lunch programs. Your Committee received an overview on the guidelines for parent group lunch programs. Your Committee expressed concern on the operation of the parent group lunch programs as some schools have many challenges with staff retention, collection of fees, and staff training.

Your Committee felt that it would be helpful for parent councils to receive support from administration in applying consistency across the Division. Your Committee also discussed whether a Division policy would be helpful to address areas such as offering subsidies for parents where parents are unable to pay for the service or how to deal with parents who are late picking up their child.

Your Committee recommended that a Division wide forum be held for parent councils to collaborate and share solutions and suggestions would be beneficial.

### **3. Restructuring of the Winnipeg School Division**

Your Committee expressed concern on the lack of communication, consultation and transparency that was involved with the elimination of a District Superintendent in the Winnipeg School Division. Your Committee was informed that the elimination of a superintendent position was incorporated as part of the approval of the 2015/2016 Budget to reduce administrative costs and lower property taxes for Division residents.

Your Committee expressed concern on how and when they will be informed of decisions made during the restructuring process.

In response to an enquiry on the lack of consultation regarding the restructuring, Trustee Freedman indicated that trustees consult with parents to obtain feedback on the Division's policies and budget when applicable, however, from time to time trustees are required to make difficult decisions that are in the best interest of parents and residents and in this case help keep property taxes lower. Trustee Collins indicated that she did not vote in favour of the Budget nor the discussion to eliminate a superintendent.

Your Committee commented that the reduction of a superintendent should have been discussed with parents due to potential issues related to the level of service being provided to parents and students.

In response to a parent representative, Trustee Freedman informed your Committee that the criteria used to identify the reduction of a superintendent was based on seniority.

In response to a parent representative, Trustee Freedman informed your Committee that the Chief Superintendent is preparing a restructuring plan that will be presented to the Governance Committee in early May and to the Board for approval and implementation in the new school year.

Your Committee noted that the Board presented to parent councils the inclusion of a French Immersion nursery program which has been removed from the final budget without consultation.

### **4. Religious Instruction in Schools**

Your Committee expressed concern on the Board of Trustees' decision to disallow Religious Instruction in schools.

Trustee Freedman informed your Committee that a motion has been presented for discussion at the May 4th Board meeting that would recommend that the Public Schools Act be amended to allow trustees the option as opposed to the requirement to approve a request for Religious Instruction based on our communities.

## 5. **Budget**

Your Committee expressed concern that upon completion of the budget consultation, trustees removed various items from the Draft Budget presented to the community such as the French language nursery program.

Trustee Freedman informed your Committee that the purpose of public consultation is to obtain feedback from parents and residents on the importance and priority of programs and services as well as determine what would be an acceptable property tax level.

Your Committee was informed that in order to minimize tax implications to residents, the Board of Trustees prioritized the needs of the community and agreed that the expansion of the full day Kindergarten program to five additional schools would be beneficial to parents throughout the Division.

Respectfully Submitted,

KEVIN FREEDMAN  
Trustee Representative

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

#### **Voting Representatives:**

Wilma Gaburno, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
Jason Neiser, Ecole George V School  
Marisol Gonzalez, Greenway School  
Liz Jackimec, Isaac Brock School  
BD Cain, Ecole Laura Secord School  
Anya Moodie-Foster, Ecole Sacre-Coeur  
Lilja Tonnellier, Sargent Park School  
Carole Bouchard-Langlois, Tec Voc High School

#### **Alternate Representatives**

Perla Javate, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
Marisol Gonzalez, Greenway School  
Jolene Schnerch, Isaac Brock School

#### **Regrets:**

Trustee Allan Beach  
Cecil Rhodes School  
Elmwood High School  
Glenelm School  
Kent Road School  
Principal Sparling School  
River Elm School  
Wolseley School

#### **Trustees:**

Kevin Freedman  
Cathy Collins

#### **Administration:**

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Schools – Central  
Lorne Belmore, Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
Rosanna Guzzi, Vice-Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
Dino DiFabrizio, Vice-Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
Garth McAlpine, Vice-Principal, Elmwood School  
Edith Austin-Anderson, Principal, Kent Road School  
Rhona Churman, Principal, École Laura Secord School  
Nelja Husack, Vice-Principal, École Laura Secord School  
Rosanne Ashley, Principal, River Elm School  
Lisa Calvez, Principal, École Sacre-Coeur  
Cristina Dias-Acquisto, Vice-Principal, École Sacre-Coeur  
Luba Krosney, Principal, Sargent Park School  
Paul Krowiak, Vice-Principal, Sargent Park School  
Vera Big George, Vice-Principal, Sargent Park School  
Rick Horaska, Principal, Tec Voc High School  
Emil Contreras, Vice-Principal, Tec Voc High School  
Helena Tessier – Recording Secretary

#### **Guests:**

Loretta Tackaberry, George V School  
Jocelyne Walker, Ecole George V School