

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Wednesday, November 27, 2019

1. INTRODUCTIONS

At the Inaugural meeting of the Board held on September 16, 2019, Trustee Jennifer Dumont was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Linda Schatkowsky was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee. Trustee Dumont welcomed everyone to the first French Immersion Advisory Committee meeting for the 2019/2020 school year.

2. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

The parent representative from École Lansdowne volunteered to Chair the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee members approved the Agenda of November 27, 2019, as distributed.

4. DUAL TRACK VS MILIEU SCHOOLS

At a previous meeting, Committee members requested information on dual track versus milieu schools for discussion.

Committee members were informed that WSD has the highest number of schools (17) in Manitoba that offer French Immersion Programs. The programs are offered in milieu and dual track settings. Committee members discussed the challenges of recruiting not only administrators but also teachers, EAs, custodians and clerks as well for both learning environments. Committee members were informed that specifically, schools with dual track settings are required to have bilingual administrators. Committee members were informed that each dual track school in WSD has a bilingual principal or vice-principal. Committee members were informed that in a milieu setting, the French Immersion Program is the only program in the school and immersion begins at the Nursery, Kindergarten or Grade 1 level. The school strives for a total French environment, where students are engaged in the language throughout the school day.

In response to a parent enquiry, Committee members were informed that although in the milieu setting, students are in a complete all day French setting which leads to fluency, there is no significant difference in provincial results in milieu or dual track settings.

Committee members were informed that in 2017 there had been an informal review of the French Immersion program in WSD. Committee members were informed that after the review the Division focused on recruitment and enrichment for all the French Immersion programs throughout the Division.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that student enrolment and community needs are deciding factors where milieu schools are established within the Division.

5. FRENCH IMMERSION ENROLMENT UPDATE

Committee members received an update on French Immersion enrolment.

Committee members were informed that there has been a steady increase in enrolment in French Immersion programs over the past several years.

6. FRENCH IMMERSION STATUS OF TEACHERS & RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees will receive a notice of motion on December 2, 2019 regarding French Immersion programs in the Division.

Committee members were informed that the motion will request a five year analysis on student enrollment in French Immersion Programs per grade/per school; including students who chose to exit the French Immersion program and transition to the International Baccalaureate and the Advanced Placement Programs, which are not currently offered in French Immersion

Committee members were informed that the motion will provide an analysis on the feasibility of offering the French Immersion International Baccalaureate and/or Advanced Placement Programming to students.

Committee members were informed that the motion will also provide an analysis of retention and teacher recruitment strategies for French Immersion programs, including the resources and financial requirements to establish a Build From Within Teacher Development Program for French Immersion teachers as a means to enhance recruitment and retention and to encourage the development of French Immersion teachers.

Committee members were informed that a few years ago, in anticipation to a French Immersion teacher shortage, the Board of Trustees added 10 French Immersion teaching positions to the budget. Committee members were informed that recruiting teachers is always a challenge and the Recruitment Committee will be attending job fairs again this year in order to recruit additional teachers.

A Committee member expressed concern on the amount of teachers the French Immersion program has lost this year and that the program now has newer teachers and that these teachers do not have the mentorship experience. The Committee members were informed that the positions have been filled and are filled on an as needed basis.

Committee members were informed that an additional challenge to recruiting and retention is the provincial wage freeze, which leads to qualified teachers moving out of the province.

Committee members agreed to present the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees for consideration:

Recommendation:

That the Board of Trustees develop a multi-year Strategic Plan for French Immersion Education in WSD.

7. WSD 2020/2021 BUDGET CONSULTATION

Committee members received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2020/2021 school year.

Committee members were informed that the Board is committed to obtaining feedback from school communities, parent councils, residents and staff groups for the 2020/2021 budget. The District Advisory meetings will provide parent representatives with an opportunity to share feedback, ideas and questions with the trustees in their local area.

Committee members were informed that it is anticipated that the Provincial funding announcement will be made in late January/early February. Once the announcement is received, the Finance/Personnel Committee of the Board will prepare final recommendations for approval by the Board of Trustees. Budget information will be distributed to all schools, parent councils, student councils, advisory committees, employee groups and others on request, and posted on Division's website.

Committee members were informed that District Advisory Committee meetings will be scheduled in February to provide an opportunity for dialogue and discussion about the draft budget. A Public Meeting regarding the draft budget will be held on February 24, 2020. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 2, 2020. All feedback will be considered by Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 9, 2020. The Board must finalize the budget by March 13, 2020, as required by legislation.

Committee members were informed that the two major sources of funding are the Province of Manitoba and the property tax levy. In the most recent budget, provincial funding provided only 58.3% of the total revenue required to balance the WSD budget. The second major source of funding is from property taxation which provided an additional 38.5% of the total revenue. The remaining three percent is revenue from other sources such as the federal government, First Nations authorities and other school divisions who use WSD resources.

Committee members were informed that provincial funding limits the opportunities to assist school divisions in removing the many barriers to education. This may impact student outcomes and key building blocks that are necessary to contribute to their growth and success in school. Committee members were also informed that Provincial funding continues to lag behind the needs of the students, families, staff and communities of the Division, resulting in an increased burden on division residents through property taxation.

Committee members were informed that the Division's priority is to maintain programs and services.

8. MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF PARENT COUNCILS (MAPC)

Committee members were provided with an overview of the on the role and services provided by MAPC. Committee members were informed that Trustee Reid is the Acting Vice-President of the Manitoba Association of Parent Council (MAPC). The Committee members were informed that MAPC is legislated to be the voice of parents at the education table. MAPC provides solutions, ideas, advocacy, tips and resources. Committee members were informed that MAPC has a bi-monthly newsletter and also forums and special events.

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Committee members were encouraged to contact the Board and Community Services Office to become a member of the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils for the 2019/2020 school year.

9. 2019-2020 DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DATES

Committee members were informed of the following schedule of the District Advisory Committees for the 2019/2020 school year:

Inner City District Advisory Committee
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5, 2019
Wednesday, February 5, 2020
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

Central District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Thursday, April 30, 2020

French Immersion Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27, 2019
Thursday, February 20, 2020
Thursday, May 7, 2020

South District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 7, 2019
Tuesday, February 11, 2020
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

North District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 14, 2019
Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Student Advisory Committee
4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20, 2019
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
Wednesday, May 6, 2020

10. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee members were provided with information from the *Canadian Parents for French*. Committee members were informed that *Canadian Parents for French* is a beneficial resource for parents and students. Committee members were encouraged to become members of *Canadian Parents for French*.

11. ADVISORY REPORTS AND SUMMARIES OF DISCUSSIONS

Committee members were advised that the Summary of Discussions of Advisory Committees are distributed to Committee members once received by the Board of Trustees as information at a Board meeting.

The Committee was also informed that once received by the Board, District Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

<https://www.winnipegssd.ca/Parents/Pages/default.aspx>

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12. GUIDELINES FOR BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The parent representatives received a copy of the Guidelines for Board Advisory Committees for information.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next French Immersion Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Collège Churchill
École J.B. Mitchell
École Lansdowne
École Laura Secord
École River Heights
École Robert H. Smith
École Sacré Coeur
École Sir William Osler

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services
Amanda Capina, Vice-President, École Garden Grove
Graça Do Coto Moreira, Vice-Principal, École J.B. Mitchell
Ruth Schappert, Principal, École LaVérendrye
Nancy Karpinsky, Principal, École Luxton
Brad Burns, Principal, École Riverview
Joy Perrott, Principal, École Stanley Knowles
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary, Board of Trustees

Regrets:

École Garden Grove
École secondaire Kelvin High
École LaVérendrye
École Riverview
École Stanley Knowles
École Victoria-Albert

Trustees:

Jamie Dumont
Linda Schatkowsky
Jennifer Chen