

CENTRAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2020

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

December 8, 2020

The Central District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Election of Committee Chair

The Committee was informed that at a Board meeting, Trustee Arlene Reid was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Jennifer Chen was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from Tec Voc High School volunteered to Chair the Central District Advisory Committee meeting.

2. WSD 2021/2022 Budget Consultation

The Committee received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2021/2022 school year.

The Committee was informed that the Budget is developed based on the WSD Strategic Plan that aligns with the vision to be engaged, confident, inspired and successful learners. The Committee was informed that the development of the budget includes students, learning outcomes, employing qualified caring and competent staff, practicing sustainable development, and building relationships.

The Committee was informed that this year, the members of the Board are interested in receiving feedback on school resources that may be required to fulfil educational mandate and the most important issue for schools, and whether the parent council favour an increase in property taxes if required to support programming.

The Committee discussed and agreed that the most important issue for their schools was the need for better access to wifi and reliable technology to support remote learning. The Committee commented that the pandemic has resulted in economic hardship for many families and the need for assistance programs such as breakfast programs may be more of a necessity.

The Committee indicated that their Parent Council was not in favour of any increases to property tax and that the rate of increase needs to be capped at a lower more reasonable amount.

The Committee suggested that additional mental health support for students and staff may be required especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee agreed to discuss the need for additional mental health supports with their parent councils.

The Committee was informed that the provincial funding announcement will be made in late January/ February and school boards are required to submit their budget to the province by March 15, 2021.

The Committee was encouraged to share the budget information with their respective parent councils and provide feedback to the Board on whether there may be specific programs or services that are required to support their children.

3. Renaming of Cecil Rhodes School

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees approved a motion on October 5, 2020, that the administration begin a consultation process to engage students, parents/guardians and members of the community on the interest of renaming Cecil Rhodes School and that the results of the consultation be provided to the Board of Trustees no later than March 15th, 2021.

The Committee was informed that the request to review the name of Cecil Rhodes School was in response to a petition with 1,700 signatures requesting that the Board of Trustees consider a name change. Trustee Chen informed Committee members that while the history of Cecil Rhodes includes an acknowledgement of business contributions and achievements, he is also known for his involvement and support in politics which upheld segregationist policies against non-white citizens of South Africa.

The Committee was informed that the administration is in the process of obtaining feedback from a variety of stakeholders. The consultation process will include current students attending Cecil Rhodes School as well as former students. The students will receive the history of Cecil Rhodes and have an opportunity to discuss the name of the school and share different perspectives. The administration will also be consulting with staff, parents, and the community to obtain feedback. The WSD website will provide an opportunity for people to complete a survey and provide feedback.

The Committee was encouraged to discuss this matter with their respective parent councils and submit feedback to the Board for consideration.

4. School Resource Officer Program

The Committee was informed that at a meeting held October 5th, 2020, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the SRO Program be referred to the Finance/Personnel Committee.

On November 16, 2020, the Board of Trustees gave direction to the administration to develop a comprehensive consultation process to evaluate the SRO program.

The Committee was informed that the administration is in the process of developing a survey to obtain feedback from students, staff and parents/guardians. A third party will be retained to consult with WSD community members and organizations to collect and compile feedback on the SRO Program.

The Committee was informed that a translator would be available for families who require assistance and that the survey would be available in five languages.

Overall, the Committee agreed that the School Resource Officer program is an essential service provided in schools.

The Committee was encouraged to share this information with their parent councils. Feedback on the SRO program can be submitted directly to The Board and Community Liaison Officer at brlapointe@wsd1.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

ARLENE REID
Trustee Representative

In Attendance:

Cecil Rhodes School
Clifton School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Elmwood High School
Isaac Brock School
Kent Road School
Laura Secord School
Lord Selkirk School
River Elm School
Sargent Park School
Tec Voc High School
Wolseley School
W.A.E.C

Regrets:

École George V. School
Glenelem School
Greenway School
Principal Sparling School
École Sacre-Coeur School
Weston School

Administration:

Celia Caetano-Gomes- Superintendent
Joyce Wong, Director of Transitional Planning
Tim Cox- Director of Literacy, Arts, Enrichment and Careers
Anna Pereira- Principal, Cecil Rhodes School
Amanda Manness, Vice Principal, Cecil Rhodes School
Nancy MacTavish, Principal, Clifton School
Lorne Belmore, Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Charles Bendo, Vice-Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Ainslie Loria, Principal Kent Road School
Wade Gregg, Principal Laura Secord School
Cree Crowchild, Principal, River Elm School
Melody, Woloschuk, Sargent Park School
Adam Dyck, Vice-Principal, Tec Voc High School
Brian Rogowsky, Principal, Wolseley School
Aaron Benarroch, Principal, W.A.E.C
Lindsey Munz, Vice-Principal W.A.E.C
Stephanie Helander, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Trustee Arlene Reid
Trustee Jennifer Chen