

CENTRAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2016

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 9, 2016

The Central District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2017/2018 Budget Development

Chris Broughton, Chair of the Finance/Personnel Committee was in attendance to provide committee members with an overview of the 2017/2018 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that the Board developed the Budget in support of Winnipeg School Division Strategic Plan.

The Committee was informed that the Budget was developed on the following Strategic Priorities: providing a robust and comprehensive education for students; improving learning outcomes; addressing barriers to learning; retaining and attracting valued staff; communicating and partnering with our communities; strengthening and enhancing sustainable development and managing tax dollars responsibly.

The Committee received an overview on the 2016/2017 Budget expenditures which totaled \$396 million.

The Committee reviewed the current Budget under the following categories: regular instruction, student support services, community education and services, instructional and support services, administration, student transportation, operations and maintenance and fiscal and capital expenditures.

The Committee was 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 62% of the total revenue required to balance the WSD budget. The second major source of funding is from property taxation which provides an additional 36% of the total revenue. The remaining two percent is revenue from other sources such as the federal government, First Nations authorities and other school divisions who use WSD resources.

The Committee was informed that education is service based and the majority of the annual budget, or 81%, goes directly to the cost of providing instruction and supports in the classroom. Another 19% covers costs such as student transportation, building maintenance and operations, business administration and support services related to research, planning and technology.

The 2017/2018 Budget, will continue to focus on improving student success and aligning resources with student needs. The Board is committed to maintaining programs introduced during previous budgets. These include safe school initiatives, language programs, early years education and programs to ensure student success through to graduation. The Committee was informed that the provincial funding announcement is expected from mid-January to mid-February.

The Committee received a survey to facilitate discussion on the Budget and agreed to continue their discussions in small groups. The Committee discussed which programs and services were successful for families and whether there was a need to improve on other programs/services that would contribute to ensure student success.

The Committee expressed concern that staggered bell times may disrupt family routines. Although, the Division spends over \$6.5 million each year on transportation, the Committee were not in support of staggered bell times. The Committee suggested other options be explored, such as a walking school bus program as a cost saving measure. The Committee suggested that community after school programs could also help save on transportation costs.

A parent representative from Greenway School requested to have more school signs displayed around their school. It was expressed that there is not enough signage to indicate there is a school in the area. The Committee was informed that it is the responsibility of the school to fundraise to purchase signage or reader boards. It was suggested by a Trustee to apply for funds through grants.

The Committee suggested more supports for high schools similar to funding provided to elementary schools. The Committee expressed concern that the funding for supports in high schools is lower and that students require academic and guidance supports in all levels of education. The Committee requested that full-time guidance counsellors be available in all schools to assist students who require additional supports. It would be highly beneficial for students and staff to have someone available to deal with more serious issues. The Committee felt it would be beneficial to offer older student programs in the school that deal with more present issues such as self-esteem and body image. It was suggested that workshops be offered during a school term or offered short-term depending on subject matter and accessible information. As more children are being exposed to the pressures of what they think they should look like on social media and television.

The Committee discussed whether a full day pilot language program should be offered to students in Kindergarten. The Committee discussed whether a swimming program could be taught to students as basic safety lessons of the water. The Committee suggested adding a junior high self defense class into the gym curriculum as domestic violence and crime rates in Winnipeg are highest in Canada.

The Committee discussed the benefits of the full day Kindergarten program and commented that children are actively learning in the classroom, however questioned the need to expand the pilot.

The Committee expressed their thoughts on adding programs and supports for new immigrant families that could be implemented to help families who may be dealing with trauma or have language barriers that prevents them from learning while at school.

A parent representative expressed her gratitude for the School Resource Officer program offered at her school. Students feel safe and the officers serve as a positive role model for students. Trustee Broughton informed Committee members that the Division provides funds to support School Resource Officers in schools.

The Committee would like to see more focus on having Enrichment programs available for students. The Committee commented that combined classroom may not benefit students who are in the older grades as teachers are concentrating on the younger students in the classroom.

The Committee suggested that there is a need to have Breakfast programs available to students in all schools especially for those students who arrive early at school. Trustees

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advised the Committee that a needs assessment would be helpful to determine whether supports are required in some schools.

In response to an enquiry regarding accessibility at some schools, the Committee was informed that the Division is working with the province to address accessibility issues in schools/building however, as funding for building renovations is provided by the province, projects may take time to be approved.

The Committee identified positive programs and services such as Language program, nursery program, working with textbooks and technology in schools, and the different learning styles being explored and offered in schools. The Trustees thanked the committee members for their kind comments of support.

The Committee was informed that in addition to Budget presentations at District Advisory Committee meetings additional information is available on the Division's website including a Budget tool and property tax calculator. A Public meeting will also be held on February 27, 2017 at Administration Building No. 1, 1577 Wall Street East at 7:00 p.m. to provide information to the public and receive feedback from individuals or groups that may wish to attend. A survey is posted on the Division's website www.winnipegssd.ca. The Committee was advised that the members of the Board are interested in receiving pre budget feedback.

2. Families and Schools Together (F&ST) Presentation

The Committee received a presentation by Christine Turnbull of 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 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 MB 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.

3. **2016/2017 District Advisory Committee Dates**

The following dates have been approved for the District Advisory Committee meetings for the 2016/2017 school year.

Central District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 9, 2016
Thursday, February 23, 2017
Thursday, May 4, 2017

North District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Tuesday, April 25, 2017

French Immersion Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30, 2016
Thursday, March 2, 2017
Thursday, May 11, 2017

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

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Thursday, February 16, 2017
Thursday, April 27, 2017

South District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22, 2016
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
Tuesday, May 2, 2017

Student Advisory Committee
4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29, 2016
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
Tuesday, May 9, 2017

4. **Advisory Council on Indigenous Education**

The Committee was informed that last year, the Policy/Program Committee approved the formation of a sub-committee, the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education. The purpose of the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education (ACIE) is to communicate and provide feedback to the Policy/Program Committee on all matters relating to the teaching, learning and cultural needs of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students in the Winnipeg School Division.

The membership includes two trustee representatives from the Policy/Program Committee, and one trustee representative from the Finance/Personnel Committee, as well as the Chair of Board of Trustees who acts as an ex-officio member of the Council. The membership also includes the Division's elders, administration, and six members of the parent/business/community representatives. At a meeting held November 7th, 2016, the Committee appointed Trustee Broughton as Chair of the ACIE, and Trustees Koshelanyk and Naylor as representatives.

The Committee was informed that the Indigenous Education Collaborative Blueprint was signed in December 2015. All educational partners in Manitoba are participating in identifying practices and models of Indigenous education across the early, middle, senior and post-secondary years.

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The Committee was informed that the Winnipeg School Division has supported Indigenous Education through providing a variety of programs and services to students/families in schools.

The Committee was informed that the members of the Board of Trustees would be interested in receiving feedback on the current practices or models that your school promotes in the best interests of Indigenous students and communities in WSD and any suggestions on practices that you would like the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education to explore in the future. Committee members were informed that feedback could be directed to the Board Office at 1577 Wall Street East, Winnipeg, MB R3E 2S5 or by email at board@wsd1.org.

The Committee was informed that the discussion would continue at a spring District Advisory Committee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

KEVIN FREEDMAN
Trustee Representative

IN ATTENDANCE:

Representatives:

Angelica Romero, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Janet Balilo, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
Sabrina Lusty, Ecole George V School
Jacqueline Sinclair, Greenway School
Jolene Schnerch, Isaac Brock School
Melissa Bowman Wilson, École Laura Secord School
Christine Heuring, Principal Sparling School
Tracy Hunt, River Elm School
Simon Wormenor, École Sacre-Coeur
Haracio Medeiros, Sargent Park School
Carole Langlois, Tec Voc School
Marla Friesen, Wolseley School

Administration:

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Education Services
Julie Smerchanski, Director of Assessment & Instruction
Lloyd Rana, Vice-Principal, Elmwood School
Rosanne Ashley, Principal, River Elm School
Luba Krosney, Principal, Sargent Park School
Rhona Churman, Principal, École Laura Secord School
Paulo Teixeira, Vice-Principal, Daniel McIntyre School
Melody Woloschuk, Principal, Isaac Brock School
Suzanne Mole, Principal, Wolseley School
Brian Rogowsky, Vice-Principal, Isaac Brock School
Michelle Sacco, Vice-Principal, Tec Voc High School
Anne Pereira, Principal, Cecil Rhodes School
Barbara Myron, Principal, Greenway School
Maria Manzano, Vice-Principal, Greenway School
Lorraine Spence, Recording Secretary
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Alternate Representatives

Greenway School
Cara McDougall, École George V School
Kathy Gaudreau, Greenway School
Liz Jackimec, Isaac Brock School
Sabrina Lee, River Elm School

Trustees:

Chris Broughton
Kevin Freedman
Cathy Collins
Lisa Naylor

Regrets:

Cecil Rhodes School
Clifton School

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Christine Turnbull, FAST Program Coordinator
Jill Dyson, FAST Coordinator
DMCI Community Support Worker
Community Members