

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, May 2, 2017

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

2. FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER (F&ST)

Committee members received a presentation by 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.

Committee members were informed that the 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.

Committee members were 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. GREEN ACTION CENTRE

Committee members received a presentation by Green Action Centre – Active and Safe Routes to Schools. Active and Safe Routes to School is a comprehensive community-based initiative that taps into the increasingly urgent demand for safe, walkable neighbourhoods. Active and Safe Routes to School promotes the use of active and efficient transportation for the daily trip to school, addressing health and traffic safety issues while taking action on air pollution and climate change.

Committee members were informed that over the past 30 years, the habit of walking to school has seen a steep decline. Studies have shown that almost 80% of children used to walk to school, compared to 35% today.

Active and Safe Routes to Schools can assist schools with helping to implement programs such as Walking/Cycling School Buses, Walking Wednesday Club, Neighbourhood Walkability Surveys, Pick-ups and Drop-off Zones, No-Idling Zones, Mapping activities, Clean Air Day, International Walk to School Month, School Travel Planning.

Committee members were informed that the School Travel Planning Program addresses the issue of sustainability, safety and health associated with the “school run” using a collaborative community based approach. School Travel Planning works closely with school administration and staff, parents, public health professionals, children, municipal officials and police. Benefits include reduced traffic congestion at schools, safe, active alternative to driving, increased physical activity and links to improved learning.

For more information on the program or to have a presentation please contact Green Action Centre, Active and Safe Routes to School by email at asrts@greenactioncentre.ca or by phone at 204-925-3773.

4. NEW BUSINESS

The Parent Representative from Kelvin High School expressed concern on the development of the school’s new gym. Committee members were informed that the Division submits a Five-Year Capital Plan to the Province outlining building/renovation priorities, but ultimately the Province prioritizes the projects.

The Committee suggested the Division’s Five-Year Capital Plan be distributed to District Advisory Committees to allow for increased communication.

5. FOR INFORMATION

5.1 Transportation of Pupils

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees passed a budget for the 2017/2018 school year which includes expenditures in the amount of \$406,594,200 for the fiscal period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. To achieve a balanced budget, the Board considered many cost savings measures, including aligning the Division’s transportation policy to be consistent with the Public Schools Act and services offered by other school divisions in the City of Winnipeg.

Committee members were informed that effective September 2017, only those students who meet the distance requirements of 1.6 kilometers boundary from the school to both the residence/daycare will be eligible to receive transportation. Students who have exceptional learning needs such as social/emotional, behavioural, sensory, physical, cognitive/intellectual, communication, academic or special health-care will continue to be provided with appropriate school bus transportation. As well, students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 in a language or alternative program, and Nursery students attending one of WSD’s three French immersion milieu schools or Aboriginal education school, whose residence/daycare is both 1.6 kilometers or further from the school will also continue to be provided with bus transportation.

Committee members were informed that students who do not meet the criteria noted above will no longer have an option to pay a fee for this service. Although, the Division recognizes that this will require some families to make adjustments to their daily schedules for the beginning of the 2017/2018 school year, it is important to implement these measures to ensure that all financial resources are redirected towards the classroom and programs that will enable students to be successful in their educational learning.

A Committee member expressed concern on the revisions to the Transportation policy and questioned why there would be additional costs to transport additional students who do not qualify for transportation if a bus was already on the route picking up qualifying children. Committee members were informed that often with changes in student enrolment, a bus would continue to run a route that no longer has eligible students, creating an increase in transportation costs.

5.2 Policy IGABA – Aboriginal Education

Committee members were informed that the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education (ACIE), a sub-committee of the Policy/Program Committee, has undertaken a review of Policy IGABA – Aboriginal Education and is inviting parents to participate in an interactive feedback process to ensure that the policy reflects the learning needs of students and schools.

Committee members were informed that a Community Gathering will be held on Thursday, May 25th, 2017 at R. B. Russell, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Principals will be seeking 3-5 representatives from each school to attend the Gathering to participate and review the policy. At the same time, the invited parents may also wish to view the WSD Indigenous Gallery Walk displays of the work being created in our schools. Committee members were informed to contact their respective Principal should they be interested in participating in the event.

5.3 School Names

Committee members were informed that the Public Relations/Communications Committee discussed the naming of schools in the Division and will continue its review of school names in the fall. Committee members were encouraged to share this information with their respective school and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

5.4 District Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held March 6, 2017, the Board of Trustees received the North District Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussions as information. Committee members were 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.

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6. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- École Robert H. Smith School

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Beth Smyth, College Churchill
Tanya Sigurdson, Earl Grey School
Lorne Hanks, Grosvenor School
Judy Grossman, Ecole J.B. Mitchell School
Andrea Firth, Kelvin High School
Matthew Cosway, Ecole LaVerendrye
Amanda Plante, Lord Roberts School
Lindsay Wright, Queenston School
Jody Sie, Ecole Riverview School

Administration:

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent
Julie Millar, Director of Student Services
Donna Miller, Principal, Churchill High School
Tricia Penner, Principal, Earl Grey School
Linda Berry, Vice- Principal, Ecole J.B. Mitchell School
Cree Crowchild, Vice-Principal, Kelvin High School
Tom Rossi, Principal, Ecole Robert H. Smith School
Karen Loveridge, Principal, Ecole Sir William Osler
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Brock Corydon School
Carpathia School
Gladstone School
Grant Park High School
Harrow School
Montrose School
Ecole River Heights School
Ecole Robert H. Smith School
Rockwood School
Ecole Sir William Osler

Trustees:

Mark Wasyliv
Sherri Rollins

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Families and Schools Together (F&ST) representatives
Green Action Centre representatives

Robert H. Smith School South District Parent Advisory Report

WSD Strategic Priorities 2016-2017

- **Students:** To provide robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity and a supportive learning environment for all students to help them prepare for their journey with values of learning and social justice, and to be responsible community members.
- **Learning Outcomes:** To further improve school attendance, achievements, and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.
- **Addressing Barriers of Learning:** To further develop initiatives and innovative approaches addressing special needs and accessibility requirements, mental health issues, childcare needs, and nutritional needs.
- **Employees:** To retain, attract, and develop our valued staff who are dedicated to the vision, purpose, values and Principles of Learning of the Winnipeg School Division, and reflect diversity.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** To provide responsible management of tax dollars and resources to ensure long term fiscal sustainability and accountability of the programs, facilities, and service that we provide.
- **Communications and Partnerships with Community:** To further develop communications and partnerships with the communities we serve, parents, families, government, business, health, and social service agencies, Indigenous education, other community organizations, and our valued volunteers.
- **Sustainability:** To strengthen and enhance sustainable development initiatives that address environmental, social, and economic values.

Ecole Robert H. Smith School Priorities include:

1. Develop within students an increased knowledge, attitude and behaviour of the three pillars E.S.D. so that students may integrate these practices in to their daily lives and their learning.
 2. Create more opportunities in the Arts program that will enable students to integrate all four strands into their learning of existing curriculums.
 3. Provide students with further practices of innovative learning that uses technology to extend curriculum learning.
1. Bike Rodeo for our grade 2-4 students next week where we encourage all the kids to ride their bikes to school and must be wearing a bike helmet. Students will have an assembly in the morning and then go outside and ride through an obstacle course simulating a community with roads, intersections, etc.
 2. 'Everyone Has a Story' Book was a huge success. Every child from N to 6 and staff have a story that is meaningful to them in the book.
 3. Everybody Has the Right Workshop at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights was attended by 10 students attending from grades 5 and 6 joining 50 schools in the WSD. What a productive day for our students! We have 2 puzzle pieces that our students will complete and paint to be a part of a large circle when all the pieces are joined together from all the other schools.
 4. Garbage Free Day on Tuesday April 11 was a huge success. We noticed a lot of our families had conversations with their children and so did the staff. Not an easy task but overall as a school we learned something valuable that day.

5. Musical Revue rehearsals going very well and all the grade 5 and 6 students are enjoying it very much. This year our revue is called 'The Wonderful World of IZ'. One of our teachers wrote the script and it is all about ESD. The kids are really enjoying the singing and dancing.
6. National Aboriginal (Summer Solstice) Day Celebrating ESD will take place at our school on Monday June 19th. Looking at celebrating ESD all day outside that day.
7. Prime Minister Trudeau visited our school and this is something our school and community will never forget. Letter writing campaign from N-6 again with the focus on 'what is good leadership'.
8. School Planning Day 2017-2018 on April 21, 2017 at Forty Whyte Centre went extremely well. We had a very productive planning day and the weather was second best to none. Next year we likely will be looking at ESD, Science, Numeracy and Literacy as our school priorities based on the goals from the WSD.
9. Technology Free Day went very well on Wednesday April 26, 2017. Good old fashion, traditional teaching practices and learning took place throughout the day. No computers, laptops, Ipads, etc.
10. We had 7 groups go to the WSD Science on Wednesday April 5th, 2017 at the Brodie Centre again. All the groups did very well with one of our students receiving gold.



'It takes a community to educate a child.'