

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2016

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

January 12, 2016

Your French Immersion Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. **Election of Committee Chair**

Your Committee was informed that at the Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Trustees held September 14, 2015, Trustee Sherri Rollins was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Allan Beach was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

2. **2016/2017 Budget Development, Process and Timelines**

Your Committee was informed that in preparation of the 2016/2017 Budget, the Board approved a process that would again enable early discussion with members of the school community and provide additional opportunities for consultation.

Your Committee was informed that the Board is seeking input during the development of the Budget. On January 5, 2016, the Province announced that students in schools across Manitoba will see more investments in their future, including targeted supports for academic achievement and career development, with more than \$1.3 billion in public schools funding. It was noted that funding for public schools will increase above the rate of economic growth at 2.55% or \$32.5 million. Your Committee was informed that a Special Board Meeting will be held on February 22, 2016 to receive delegations on the Budget. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until February 26, 2016. All feedback will be considered by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 7, 2016. The Board must finalize the budget by March 15, 2016, as required by legislation.

3. 2015/2016 Advisory Committee Dates

Your Committee was informed that at a meeting held November 2, 2015, the Board of Trustees approved the following recommendation: That the following tentative schedule of the District Advisory Committees for the 2015/2016 school year be approved and that on a regular basis the Board of Trustees identify topics for discussion at the District Advisory Meetings.

Central District Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 26, 2015
Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Inner City District Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
Wednesday, February 10, 2016
Wednesday, April 27, 2016

North District Advisory Committee

Tuesday, November 17, 2015
Thursday, February 4, 2016
Tuesday, May 10, 2016

South District Advisory Committee

Tuesday, November 24, 2015
Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Tuesday, April 26, 2016

French Immersion Advisory Committee

~~Wednesday, December 2, 2015~~
Thursday, February 18, 2016
Thursday, May 19, 2016

Student Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Wednesday, February 24, 2016
Thursday, May 12, 2016

4. Recordings of District Advisory Meetings

Your Committee was informed that the recording of District Advisory Committee meetings was being added to the agenda for discussion to determine whether there was an interest from parents to livestream meetings.

Your Committee expressed concerns that parents would not be comfortable attending meetings and would be reluctant to speak openly and share information. Your Committee also expressed concern related to confidentiality.

Your Committee stated that although watching a meeting would be informative, the livestream would not provide an opportunity for members to participate in discussion.

Your Committee discussed the possibility of providing audio only as an alternative to livestreaming meetings.

5. École LaVérendrye & Sir William Osler Update

Your Committee was informed that during the 2015/2016 school year, École Sir William Osler has been operating as a Nursery to Grade 1 satellite program site to École LaVérendrye in an effort to temporarily address high student enrolment concerns raised by parents until the school could undergo construction for additional space.

Your Committee was informed that the construction of the new gymnasium and the renovations to the existing gymnasium at École LaVérendrye are scheduled to be completed for school opening, September 2016. The Division is working with the École LaVérendrye school administration to ensure that a safe area is available and deemed appropriate for children to play outdoors at the start of the school year. Therefore, École LaVérendrye would revert back to operating as a Nursery to Grade 6 French milieu school in September 2016. Should any concerns be raised by the contractor that would indicate a significant delay in meeting the details/timelines of the construction, as standard practice, the administration would ensure that the supports were available to families in an effort to provide the least amount of disruption. Families would be contacted by school administration and advised of any concerns/problems.

Given that progress updates from the contractor indicate that the construction/renovations at École LaVérendrye are to be completed effective September 2016, the administration has recommended that École Sir William Osler operate independently as a Nursery to Grade 2 French milieu school, with a grade being added each subsequent year.

Parents with children presently attending École Sir William Osler are being requested to confirm whether their children would remain at the school for September 2016 or if they will be returning to École LaVérendrye. It is anticipated that new students will enrol at their catchment area school as approved by the Board. The Division has distributed enrolment forms to parents which will assist administration in ensuring that children are placed in appropriate schools/classrooms. The number of children registered will determine the staff required to support the enrolment.

Your Committee was informed that a Transition Committee consisting of parents/staff and Division representatives of École LaVérendrye/Sir William Osler have continued to meet to discuss the short and long term planning for the programs. Members of the Transition Committee expressed concerns that their voice may not have been heard regarding the timelines surrounding the completion of renovations to the gym and washrooms which would disrupt the transition of students back to École LaVérendrye, the Before and After School Care program at Sir William Osler, as well as the creation of a Parent Council at Sir William Osler and staffing.

Your Committee was informed that in respect to childcare arrangements at Sir William Osler, the school administration would continue to promote and provide a safe program for children and would work with parents registered at Sir William Osler and members of the community to provide this service.

Your Committee expressed a need for an alternate plan should construction not be completed by the anticipated date. Your Committee felt that September 2017 would be a more realistic timeline to have students return to École LaVérendrye.

Parents raised three reasons to support a September 2017 transition as follows: provide more time for Sir William Osler to stabilize and increase enrolment; to allow construction to be more fully completed; and to allow time for the administration to plan for the implementation of programs.

Your Committee raised concerns on situations such as transportation should the renovations at École LaVérendrye not be completed on time and children requiring to bus to Sir William Osler and who would pay the cost.

Trustee Rollins indicated that an update on the gym and washroom renovations will be provided to parents and that administration is preparing information to share with parents on the progress of the construction of the new gymnasium. Your Committee suggested weekly progress reports of the renovations and construction may be helpful for parents.

Your Committee was informed that an additional French Immersion dual track Language Program will be established at Luxton School as part of the Division's longer term strategy to address the increasing demand for French language studies in Winnipeg. It is anticipated that a new dual track French Immersion school will be built in the North West Corner once approved by the Public Schools Finance Board. Additionally it is expected that establishing Sir William Osler as an N-8 French Milieu will alleviate the high French enrolment in the South.

Your Committee was informed that once students complete Grade 6, students will have the option of registering at École River Heights School or Collège Churchill.

Your Committee was informed that the Transition Committee is meeting on January 14, 2016, to discuss care programs as well as timelines and processes for the transition.

The Division is still waiting for a response from the Public School Finance Board regarding the request to build a Nursery to Grade 8 French milieu school on the Sir William Osler site or potential upgrades to the current building.

Respectfully Submitted,

SHERRI ROLLINS
Trustee Representative

French Immersion Advisory Committee Report No. 2-2014**IN ATTENDANCE:****Voting Representatives:**

Julie Strong, Collège Churchill
École Geroge V School
Erin Bueckert, École J.B. Mitchell School
Anita Mallatratt, École Laura Secord School
Stacy Huard, École LaVérendrye
Angela Recio, École River Heights School
Andrea Bellamy, École Robert H. Smith School
Laurie Kozak, École Victoria-Albert School

Trustees:

Sherri Rollins

Non-Voting Representatives:

École LaVérendrye parents
Sir William Osler parents
Parent/Transition Committee members
École LaVérendrye Care Program representatives

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services – Equity & Diversity,
Inclusive Education
Julie Smerchanski, Director of Assessment & Instruction
Vince Audino, Principal, École Lansdowne
Claudette Warnke, Principal, École LaVérendrye/Sir William Osler
Sharon Labossiere, Vice Principal, École LaVérendrye/Sir William Osler
Chantelle Deslauriers, Principal, École River Heights School
Dominique Ostermann, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith School
Nelia Husack, Principal, École Victoria-Albert School
Helena Tessier – Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Trustee Allan Beach
École Garden Grove School
École Lansdowne