

NORTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2019

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 19, 2019

The North District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2019/2020 Draft Budget Discussion

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide an overview of the 2019/2020 Draft Budget. The Committee was informed that on January 9, 2019, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The increase for all of Manitoba for 2019/2020 is 0.5% or \$6.6 million dollars. The Committee was informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division which is based on enrollment equals a decrease of 0.1% or \$202,963 over last year's funding.

The Committee was informed that the Division's costs increase every year due to inflation on required expenses such as Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance Premiums and Payroll Taxes. The Committee was informed that even with the Province's introduction of wage freezes for public sector employees, including teachers, salary increments earned by Division staff must be included in the 2019/2020 budget.

The Committee was informed that the Minister of Education encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2.0%. The Committee was informed that special requirement is based on the school year and property taxes are based on a calendar year. The Committee was informed that a 3.0% special requirement equals a 2.9% property tax increase or \$41 on average assessed home at \$214,200. The Committee was informed that the provincial funding for education is based on several factors including student enrolment, capital costs, equalization payments and the phase out of the Tax Incentive Grant.

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees is requesting feedback on the following budget additions: autism clinical psychologist, day program supports for students with exceptional needs, additional Early Childhood Inclusive Needs Support, Sound Field Systems, enhanced Wi-Fi, pilot video conference course, expanding Full Day Kindergarten programs, data analytics software, technology, school grounds maintenance and Lunch Program Coordinator.

The Committee was also informed that the Division provides many programs/services for students that are not provincially funded as follows: Intercultural Support Workers, Library Technical Assistants, Computer Technicians, Adult Crossing Guards, School Resource Officers, off campus programs, Home Learning Assistants for Early School Years, Library and Support Services, therapy services, summer school, nutrition programs, nursery, arts performances, special events and programs, milk subsidy, and Attendance Officers. These programs/services cost \$11,415,173 and are areas the Board of Trustees may have to find cost savings if required.

In response to an enquiry regarding the role of the Lunch Program Coordinator, the Committee was informed that the Lunch Program Coordinator would help Parent Councils with the business matters such as payroll and audit. The Committee suggested it be a pilot project with a smaller salary level and continue the position should it prove to be beneficial.

The Committee from Shaughnessy Park School expressed concern in regards to the discontinuation of the walking school bus program. The Committee would like to see this program added to the budget. The Committee shared data supporting student safety of the walking school bus program. The data showed an 87% increase in attendance with the help of this program. The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees will take all feedback into consideration.

North District Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2019

Overall, the Committee supported a 2.9% property tax increase in order to maintain programs and services. There was an overall agreement that more information is needed on programs/services not funded by the Province before prioritizing cuts or additions.

The Committee agreed that should reductions be required to balance the budget, the expansion of Full Day Kindergarten sites, pilot video conferencing course, sound field system, addressing asphalt deterioration but not trees and foliage replacement, Library Technical Assistant, milk subsidies and modern day technology should be areas the Board may want to reconsider.

The Committee was informed that the Board advocates on behalf of the Division to continue discussions with the Province and seek alternatives to education funding. The Committee was encouraged to contact their MLA, Premier or Minister of Education to share their opinions of education funding.

The Committee was informed that the Budget presentation is available on the Winnipeg School Division's website along with a property tax calculator and survey.

The Committee was informed that in addition to budget presentations at District Advisory Committee meetings, information is available on the Division's website. A Public meeting will also be held on February 25, 2019 at Administration Building N^o. 1, 1577 Wall Street East at 7:00 p.m. to provide budget information to the general public and receive feedback from individuals or groups that may wish to attend as well there is a survey posted on the Division's website www.winnipegssd.org. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 4, 2019. All feedback will be considered by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at the meeting to be held March 11, 2019.

2. Waterford Green School

In response to an enquiry regarding the new Waterford Green School, the Committee was informed that the school is expected to open September 2020. The Committee was also informed that there will be a Community Forum in early April.

Respectfully Submitted,

BETTY EDEL
Trustee Representative

North District Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2019**IN ATTENDANCE:****Voting Representatives:**

Champlain School
Faraday School
Garden Grove School
Inkster School
Lansdowne School
Lord Nelson School
Meadows West School
Ralph Brown School
Shaughnessy Park School
Sisler High School
St. John's High School
Community Member

Regrets:

Andrew Mynarski School
Isaac Newton School
Prairie Rose School
Tyndall Park School

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Community Support Worker, Champlain School
Community Support Worker, Shaughnessy Park School
Community Members

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services
Chris Rhodes, Director, Career Education
Paul Kochan, Chief Financial Officer & Secretary-Treasurer
Ainslie Loria, Acting Principal, Faraday School
Mohammad Rezaei, Principal, Isaac Newton School
Sandra Stevenson, Principal, Lord Nelson School
Mercy Sackey, Vice-Principal, Lord Nelson School
Roger Le Grand, Principal, Meadows West School
Gabrielle Katchanoski, Vice-Principal, Meadows West School
Ken Romaniuk, Principal, Prairie Rose School
Rosanna Guzzi, Principal, Ralph Brown School
Tony Marchione, Principal, Robertson School
Nadia DeLuca, Acting Vice-Principal, Robertson School
Pat Graham, Principal, Shaughnessy Park School
Angela Perez, Vice-Principal, Shaughnessy Park School
Georgia Wells, Vice-Principal, St. John's High School
George Heshka, Principal, Sisler High School
Madalynne Iannone, Vice-Principal, Sisler High School
Gisele Mospanchuk, Principal, Tyndall Park School
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Trustee Betty Edel
Trustee Linda Schatkowsky
Trustee Mark Wasyliv