

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, March 2, 2017

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee members approved the Agenda of March 2, 2017, as distributed.

2. 2017/2018 DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Committee members were provided with an overview of the 2017/2018 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that Provincial funding for the Winnipeg School Division for 2017/2018 increased by \$2.6 million, or 1.4%, over the 2016/2017 Budget.

Committee members were informed that 2017/2018 provincial funding provides 62% of total revenue while 36% comes from property taxation and 2% from other sources. The total revenue from the Province is projected to be \$245,622,498.

Committee members were informed that the Board develops the budget based on the Winnipeg School Division's Strategic Plan. The plan includes providing robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity and a supportive learning environment for all students. It includes retaining, attracting and developing valued staff, addressing barriers to learning, enhancing sustainable development initiatives and developing communications and partnerships with the community.

Committee members reviewed the expenditures required in the draft budget for the 2017/2018 school year. Committee members were informed that 81% of the draft budget goes directly to the cost of providing instruction and supports in the classroom. The other 19% covers costs such as student transportation, building maintenance and operations, business administration and support services related to research, planning and technology. Other mandatory expenses are Canada Pension Plan costs, Employment Insurance premiums, payroll tax and the cost of supplies, materials, books and equipment.

Committee members were informed that in order to achieve a balanced budget, the Board of Trustees have proposed three options for a school levy tax increase: A 3% increase would be equal to an annual increase of \$40, a 3.9% increase equals to a \$52 and a 4.5% increase equals to a \$60 increase on an average assessed value of a home in the Division.

Committee members were informed that the Education Property Tax Credit is currently \$700 per owner occupied home. Seniors are eligible for an additional credit and renters are also eligible for a credit through their income tax, however, this credit is under review by the current government.

Committee members were informed that in order to achieve a 3% special levy tax, Adult Crossing Guards, School Resource Officers, the Nursery Program, Library Technical Assistants, changes to the Transportation Policy and mileage expense payments would have to be significantly reduced to achieve savings.

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Committee members were informed that the full day kindergarten pilot project was implemented in the 2014/2015 school year and is not funded by the province. Committee members were informed that grade one teachers are already raving about the students who have attended the full day kindergarten program.

Committee members also discussed a before and after school program in schools for students who attend half day nursery and kindergarten programs. Committee members felt that the province would support this option as it would help alleviate some of the pressure on daycare centers. Committee members were informed that schools have limited available space to accommodate additional programming. Committee members were informed that Trustee Wasyliw has brought forth a motion in support of before and after school programming in schools.

Committee members expressed concern about the current shortage of French immersion teachers in the Division. Committee members were informed that the Division is recruiting French teachers however the difficulty is having a French teacher who is strong in English as well. Committee members discussed the possibility of the new government wanting to capping salaries. The Committee was informed that capping would not benefit the Division in retaining good qualified language teachers.

The Committee discussed merging dual track schools in the same area to either Milieu or an English school. The Committee was informed that the Division had done a poll previously at École Robert H Smith with the option of making it into a Milieu school and it was not well received.

Committee members were informed that the cost of transporting children to and from school for half day programs compared to full day programs are higher due to the time, number of buses and stops. Committee members discussed the option of combining half day kindergarten and nursery programs into one full day program to provide Transportation cost savings.

Committee members were informed that the proposed changes to the Division's Transportation Policy includes removing the option for fee for service and special circumstances. Committee members were informed that parents would no longer have that option to pay a fee of service for students who do not meet the mandated distance requirements. Committee members were also informed that options being considered are to have a central meeting place, staggered bell times, and walking school bus to achieve additional cost savings.

Committee members suggested that parents be informed well in advance of changes to Transportation to provide families the opportunity to make arrangements. Committee members were informed that the province does not confirm funding levels until late January which allows schools with a few weeks to approve and finalize the budget.

Committee members expressed concern on the proposed elimination of Adult Crossing Guards as well as School Resource Officers. Committee members expressed the importance these roles play in the safety of students. Committee members were informed that the Board reached out to Manitoba Public Insurance to partner with the Division on the Crossing Guards program, however, MPI does not provide financial support for this type of program. Committee members were informed that the Board continues to advocate to all levels of government for additional funding.

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Committee members discussed the mileage reduction for staff. Trustee Wasyliw informed the Committee that a motion is before the Board of Trustees to approve a purchase of an electric fleet vehicle for use by staff to reduce mileage costs.

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

Committee members were 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 27, 2017 at Administration Building No. 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 6, 2017. 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 13, 2017.

3. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- École Victoria-Albert School

4. FOR INFORMATION

4.1 District Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions

Committee members were informed that the Board, District Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

4.2 School's Parent Council Website

Committee members were informed that a Parent Council tab has been created on the Division's website that provides information on areas of interest such as District Advisory Committee Dates, Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions, information on Manitoba Association of Parent Councils as well as information the Board of Trustees may want to share with Parent Councils.

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Central District Advisory Committee will be held Thursday, May 11, 2017.

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IN ATTENDANCE:

Representatives:

Julie Strong, Collège Churchill
Lucy Payette, École Laura Secord School
Stacy Huard, École LaVérendrye
Leslie Hackett, École Riverview School
Lauren Hope, École Robert H. Smith

Alternate Representatives

Representative, École Riverview

Regrets:

École Garden Grove School
École George V School
École Secondaire Kelvin High School
École Lansdowne
École Sacré-Cœur

Administration:

Christine Rhodes, Director of Career Education
Vince Audino, Principal, École Lansdowne
Rhona Churman, Principal, École Laura Secord
Nelia Husack, Principal, École Victoria-Albert School
Lorraine Spence, Recording Secretary

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Brittany Morrison, WANTE Representative

Trustees:

Mark Wasyliv

ÉCOLE VICTORIA-ALBERT SCHOOL

110 Ellen Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 1A1
204-943-3459 (Fax) 204-957-7207

NELIA HUSACK, Principal
MARLA TRAN, Vice Principal

French Immersion Advisory Committee
March 2, 2107

École Victoria-Albert School Report

École Victoria- Albert School continues to be a busy and vibrant building!

- Our grades 1-4 French Immersion classes attended the Festival du Voyageur and our entire school had a fun filled week with French activities, including outdoor games and pancake snack.
- Engaging Fusion artists working with our students and the French Immersion students have a French speaking artist!
- Lunch hour and after school clubs boasting high participation numbers, including activities such as Makerspace, handwriting club, knitting club, recorder karate, lunch hour choir, basketball, volleyball and soccer.
- Student-Led Conferences, will be held on March 16th and 17th.
- Our Open House/ Information Evening will be held on March 8th for our French Immersion and English Kindergarten & Grade One programs.
- We continue to welcome a number of new students and their families from Syria, into our École Victoria-Albert School family!
- We are very excited to grow our French Immersion program and we will be opening a grade 5 classroom in September!
- On April 20th our intermediate classes will present "The Best Little Theatre in Town"