

**CENTRAL DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3-2015**

To the Chair and Members  
Winnipeg Public School Board:

November 26, 2015

Your Central District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

**1. Election of Committee Chair**

Your Committee was informed that at the Inaugural meeting of the Board held on September 14, 2015, Trustee Allan Beach was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Kevin Freedman was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from École George V School volunteered to Chair the first Central District Advisory Committee. The Committee agreed to appoint a Chair at each meeting of the 2015/2016 term.

**2. 2016/2017 Budget Development**

The Secretary-Treasurer was in attendance to provide your Committee with an overview of the 2016/2017 Budget Development.

Your Committee was informed that the Board is seeking input during the development of the Budget. In early February, after the Provincial Funding announcement, Trustees will meet with all District Advisory Committees as well as have an open meeting for residents in the Division to present the draft budget and receive feedback.

Your Committee was informed that the budget was developed on the following Guiding Principles: Leading Education and Innovation; Providing High Quality Education; Employing Qualified, Caring and Competent Staff; Educating the Whole Child; Building stronger children, families and communities; Practicing Sustainable Development; Ensuring Safe Learning Environments in Schools; Managing Tax Dollars Responsibly.

Your Committee was informed of some of the challenges facing the Board which include the unknown provincial funding level until announced by the Minister of Education in January 2016, costs required for continuation of programs and services, costs to maintain buildings, infrastructure and equipment, addressing local needs, the importance of maintaining taxing authority, property reassessment and communication. Your Committee was also informed of required changes in rates or costs such as negotiated salary changes, salary scale increments, changes in benefits, employer rates for employment insurance, Canada pension plan and payroll tax, costs for supplies, paper, books, equipment, rates changes for utilities and ongoing investments required to maintain and repair school facilities.

Your Committee was informed of provincial mandates that affect the Division's budget which include a class size initiative, report cards, Appropriate Educational Programming (Bill 13) Standards for Student Services, accessibility guidelines and transportation requirements.

A survey was distributed to your Committee with respect to the development of the 2016/2017 Budget Development. Your Committee was informed that feedback will be compiled and given to Trustees for consideration.

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Your Committee discussed the questions outlined in the survey and felt that overall there is support to maintain existing programs and services for students. Your Committee acknowledged the value of existing programs and services provided to students in the Winnipeg School Division.

Your Committee recognized that school property taxes could not be reduced without decreasing supports to students; therefore reducing property taxes would not be a priority. Your Committee also expressed concern about the impact of consistently raising property taxes and encouraged advocating the Province for funding as an alternate to increasing property taxes.

Your Committee was informed that a pilot full day kindergarten program was implemented in four schools using reserve funds from the 2014/2015 budget. An additional five schools were chosen to offer the full day kindergarten program as part of the 2015/2016 Budget expenditures. Your Committee was informed that the Board identified schools in order to have a full day Kindergarten offered in each ward. Your Committee commented that there should be less importance placed on offering full day kindergarten programs until there has been considerable evaluation on the benefits to children. Your Committee suggested the full day Kindergarten program should be deferred until the pilot program and outcomes have been analyzed. Your Committee suggested that if the full day Kindergarten program was expanded that consideration be given to opening the program in a French Immersion setting. Your Committee was informed that the Kindergarten program would not be expanded until the evaluation has been completed.

Your Committee was informed that the Board is exploring the possibility of implementing a Division-Wide Indigenous Language Program, Spanish Language Program as well as an expansion to the French Immersion Dual Track Program.

Your Committee discussed other supports or services for students that should be included in the 2016/2017 budget. Your Committee expressed a need for assistance with the operation of lunch programs, in particular, the collection of fees. Your Committee also stated that only a small percentage of students advance to college or university particularly with rising costs in tuitions and discussed the importance of offering specialized programs to enhance student skills.

Your Committee also discussed the importance of increasing supports in FASD early assessment and intervention, additional Educational Assistants and classroom supports, special education, aboriginal education, as well as programs and services to support refugees and new families.

Your Committee was informed that trustees have been strongly advocating with the Province for additional funding and support for special needs students.

Your Committee also discussed suggestions related to the budget specific to schools and the parent representative from Isaac Brock expressed the importance of accessibility at the school and the need for an elevator or ramp as well Isaac Brock School expressed the benefits of implementing a French Immersion class in the school.

Your Committee discussed the benefits of having a centralized person who is able to advocate for all schools in obtaining grants. Your Committee was informed that there are numerous grants available from corporations which schools may wish to apply for financial support.

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Your Committee was informed that reserve money from the 2015/2016 school year Budget was approved for all schools to have enhanced WiFi availability by the end of the 2015/2016 school year.

Your Committee suggested cultural supports for schools due to a change in provincial mandate for use of the Aboriginal Academic Achievement grant (AAA). The provincial mandate supports literacy and numeracy primarily.

Your Committee was informed that the Board established the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education. Your Committee was informed that one aspect of that commitment is the recognition of the significant Aboriginal population in the Division and the development of initiatives which will enhance the education of Aboriginal students as well as be of benefit to all students.

### 3. 2016/2017 Budget Process and Timelines

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.

### 4. 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

**5. Parent Run Lunch Programs**

Your Committee was informed that at the Central District Advisory Committee meeting last year, your Committee discussed concerns and challenges on the operation of the parent group lunch programs as some schools have many challenges with staff retention, collection of fees, and staff training. Committee members were informed that feedback will be compiled and given to Trustees for consideration.

Your Committee discussed what training has been provided for the Lunch Program coordinator. Your Committee provided information on the range of training provided including food handler's certification, First Aid, CPR, NVCI (Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training), PBIS (Positive Behaviour Intervention and Supports), as well as reviewing policies, routines, and roles. Some Committee members expressed a need for training to be provided to the coordinator.

Your Committee discussed whether there was sufficient space provided and what suggestions can be forwarded to improve the area. Some Committee members expressed concerns with space limitations and have their program run off-site, while other schools had plenty of space.

Your Committee discussed what was found to be helpful in the collection of fees and who assists the process. Your Committee indicated that processes have been implemented to send late fee notices and phone calls to parents. Your Committee indicated that the principal is involved and provides support. Your Committee requested support to assist with the process of collecting fees.

Your Committee also suggested providing alternative plans to support families in need as well as suggested implementing a mentorship program where older students monitor the younger grades in their classroom, while a staff member patrols the area. This could result in a free service eliminating the need to collect fees or reduced fees. In addition, the mentoring students can be provided with a special lunch throughout the year for their work.

**6. Recording 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 concern 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

ALLAN BEACH  
Trustee Representative

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Central District Advisory Committee Report No. 3-2015**IN ATTENDANCE:****Voting Representatives:**

Carrie Johnston, Cecil Rhodes School  
Ron Balilo, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
May Hupé, Elmwood High School  
Jason Neiser, École George V School  
Sabrina Lusty, École George V School  
Stephanie Kuczera, École George V School  
Arlene Reid, Glenelm School  
Liz Jackimec, Isaac Brock School  
Jolene Schnerch, Isaac Brock School  
BD Cain, Laura Secord School  
Desiree Langlois, Lord Selkirk School  
Alaine Rasmussen, Lord Selkirk School  
Andre Silva, École Sacre-Coeur  
Sargent Park School  
Glenda Bork, Tec Voc High School  
Marla Friesen, Wolseley School

**Regrets:**

Greenway School  
Kent Road School  
River Elm School

**Administration:**

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Schools – Central  
René Appelmans, Secretary-Treasurer  
Julie Smerchanski, Director of Assessment & Instructional Support Services  
Anne Pereira, Principal, Cecil Rhodes School  
Lorne Belmore, Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
Danis Machado, Vice-Principal, Daniel McIntyre Collegiate  
Jeannette Tourangeau, Vice-Principal, Elmwood School  
Manuel Silva, Principal, École George V School  
Melody Woloschuk, Principal, Isaac Brock School  
Edith Austin-Anderson, Principal, Kent Road School  
Rhona Churman, Principal, Laura Secord School  
Stormie Duchnycz, Principal, Lord Selkirk School  
Lisa Calvez, Principal, École Sacré-Coeur  
Luba Krosney, Principal, Sargent Park School  
Vera Big George, Vice-Principal, Sargent Park School  
Dino DiFabrizio, Vice-Principal, Sargent Park School  
Rick Horaska, Vice-Principal, Tec Voc High School  
Suzanne Mole, Principal, Wolseley School  
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

**Trustees:**

Allan Beach  
Cathy Collins