

FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2018

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

December 6, 2018

The French Immersion Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. Election of Committee Chair

Trustee Jamie Dumont welcomed everyone to the first French Immersion Advisory Committee meeting for the 2018/2019 school year. At the Inaugural meeting of the Board held on November 5, 2018, Trustee Jamie Dumont was appointed as the Board's representative and Trustee Linda Schatkowsky was appointed as the Board's alternate representative to this Committee.

The parent representative from École Lansdowne volunteered to Chair the French Immersion Advisory Committee for the 2018/2019 school year.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Committee requested that the topic of French Immersion be added to the Agenda under New Business. The Committee approved the amended Agenda of December 6, 2018.

3. Provincial 2019 Pre-Budget Consultation

The Committee was provided with a copy of Manitoba News Release dated October 1, 2018 regarding the 2019 Pre-Budget Consultations. Manitobans are invited to provide feedback to the Minister of Finance on an online survey which includes questions on the following topics:

- Reduce the number of school divisions
- Reduce senior management positions in school divisions
- Reduce the number of unionized education bargaining units
- Control the rate of overall education spending growth
- Ensure value for money in education spending

The Committee was provided with a WSD fact sheet to assist parents in completing the Provincial Survey. The Committee was informed of the effects the Province's proposals would have on education.

The Committee was provided with contact information to voice concerns on the 2019 Provincial Budget proposals.

4. WSD 2019/2020 Budget Consultation

The Committee received an overview on the Budget Consultation for the 2018/2019 school year.

The Committee was informed that the Board is committed to obtaining feedback from school communities, parent councils, residents and staff groups for the 2018/2019 school budget. The District Advisory meetings will provide parent representatives with an opportunity to share feedback, ideas and questions with the trustees in their local area.

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The Committee received a survey to facilitate discussions on the 2019/2020 Budget which identified 3 main topics for feedback on programs, mental health and property taxes.

The Committee discussed programs which have most impacted their schools/children. The Committee discussed the importance of programs and services such as the Nursery Program, Arts, Inner City Science Program, Reading Recovery Program, Diagnostic Learning Centre, Mindful Training, Learn to Swim and the School Resource Officer.

The Committee discussed a need for additional support for mental health due to the increased anxieties and stressors that students are experiencing.

The Committee discussed the provincially suggested 2% property tax limit and commented that it is unsustainable to keep increasing taxes. The Committee discussed the need for additional information on what programs and services would be included in the Budget prior to confirming whether they would support an increase in property taxes.

The Committee was informed that it is anticipated that the Provincial funding announcement will be made in late January/early February. Once the announcement is received, the Finance/Personnel Committee of the Board will prepare final recommendations for approval by the Board of Trustees. Budget information will be distributed to all schools, parent councils, student councils, advisory committees, employee groups and others on request, and posted on Division's website.

The Committee was informed that District Advisory Committee meetings will be scheduled in February to provide an opportunity for dialogue and discussion about the draft budget. A Public Meeting regarding the draft budget will be held on February 25, 2019. The deadline to receive feedback regarding the budget will be received by the Board until March 4, 2019. All feedback will be considered by Finance/Personnel Committee. The Board of Trustees will approve the budget at its meeting to be held March 11, 2019. The Board must finalize the budget by March 15, 2019, as required by legislation.

5. Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC)

The Committee was reminded to contact the Board and Community Services Office if they wish to become a member of the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils for the 2018/2019 school year.

6. French Immersion Agenda Items

The parent representative from École Robert H. Smith made a recommendation that French Immersion matters be added to the agenda for future meetings. The Committee agreed that French Immersion items be added to the agenda for future meetings.

7. 2018/2019 District Advisory Committee Dates

The Committee was informed of the following schedule of the District Advisory Committees for the 2018/2019 school year:

Central District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 29, 2018
Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Thursday, April 25, 2019

Inner City District Advisory Committee
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 28, 2018
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Wednesday, April 17, 2019

North District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27, 2018
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Tuesday, April 30, 2019

South District Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
Tuesday, February 12, 2019
Tuesday, April 23, 2019

French Immersion Advisory Committee
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 6, 2018
Thursday, February 21, 2019
Thursday, May 2, 2019

Student Advisory Committee
4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 4, 2018
Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

JAMIE DUMONT
Trustee Representative

IN ATTENDANCE:**Voting Representatives:**

Collège Churchill
École Garden Grove School
École George V School
École J.B. Mitchell School
École secondaire Kelvin High School
École Lansdowne
École Laura Secord School
École LaVérendrye
École River Heights School
École Robert H. Smith
École Sir William Osler
École Stanley Knowles School

Trustees:

Trustee Jamie Dumont
Trustee Linda Schatkowsky

Administration:

Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services
Dominique Ostermann, Principal, École Sir William Osler
Matt Couture, Vice-Principal, École Robert H. Smith
Joy Perrott, Vice-Principal, École Stanley Knowles School
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary

Regrets:

École Riverview School