

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – MAY 15, 2018

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

As there were five voting representatives in attendance and six are required to form a quorum, the student representatives agreed to proceed with an informal meeting.

A New Business item regarding Dress Code was added to the agenda.

2. VOLUNTEER MANITOBA

Committee members received a presentation by Volunteer Manitoba. Volunteer Manitoba is an organization whose goal is to provide information, training and resources on all aspects of the voluntary sector and to build strong communities with working partners including governments, researchers, non-profit/charitable organizations, volunteers, funders, donors, labour and businesses.

Committee members discussed volunteer opportunities, reasons to volunteer and skills that are acquired through volunteering.

Committee members were informed that the organization's website contains a database of volunteer opportunities. https://www.volunteermanitoba.ca/volunteer_opportunities.php

For more information on the program or to have a presentation made to your school please contact Volunteer Manitoba by email at kamillah.elgiadaa@volunteermanitoba.ca or by phone at 204-477-5180.

3. ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held May 1, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the Division conduct a pilot of online course delivery for 30 interested high school students for the 2017/2018 school year utilizing the InformNet system.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees approved the continuation of the InformNet program and increased the number of students to 60 students as part of the 2018/2019 budget process.

The Principal of InformNet was in attendance and provided Committee members with an overview on the online learning management system.

InformNet is a web based online course system that utilizes a learning management system called blackboard that is supported by the province.

The InformNet pilot was announced across all WSD high schools in May 2017. In September, the principal of InformNet indicated that all 30 seats allocated for high school students were filled and agreed to allow an additional 10 seats for WSD students.

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Committee members were informed that in April, 2018 all WSD high schools were informed of the continuation of the InformNet online course option for up to 60 seats for students attending WSD high schools

Committee members were informed that InformNet offers 45 high school courses to grade 9-12 students and teacher support is available through chat or email.

Committee members were informed that the Division has agreed to pay the required fee of \$500.00 for Division students.

Committee members were encouraged to contact their school office or guidance counsellors if there was an interest in registering for an online course provided by InformNet.

For more information on the program or to have a presentation made to your school please contact Tom Tarrant, Principal of InformNet at www.informnet.mb.ca.

4. NUTRITION IN SCHOOLS

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss nutrition in schools. Committee members were provided with a copy of the Division's Policy IGAEA – Nutrition which outlines the Division's responsibility to promote and support good nutrition in schools by ensuring that healthy food choices predominate in school cafeterias, breakfast and lunch programs, canteens, vending machines, snack programs fundraising activities and school-wide events. The Division's Nutrition policy is based on the accordance with Manitoba School Nutrition Handbook.

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/healthyschools/foodinschools/documents/handbook.pdf>.

Committee members were informed that the Policy/Program Committee members will be reviewing this policy in the near future.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees has recently established a Special Committee entitled "Winnipeg School Division Food Issues Council" to review WSD policies and programs related to food issues involving the Division.

5. WEAPONS AT SCHOOLS

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss safety in schools.

Committee members were provided with the Division's Policies GBAAA-Violence Prevention, Policy JGE-Expulsion of Students (violence and weapons) and Policy JG-Safe Schools which outlines the responsibility to promote a safe school environment.

Committee members were informed that the Finance/Personnel and Policy/Program Committee will be reviewing all policies in the near future.

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6. HEALTH CURRICULUM

At a previous meeting, Committee members agreed to discuss integrating gender education into the Health curriculum.

Committee members were informed that the Division currently provides opportunities within the outcomes in all grades of the Manitoba Education, Physical Education/Health Education curriculum to address issues of gender identity. Sexual diversity issues are incorporated into all Health Education workshops.

Committee members were informed that although, there are no sexuality education specific modules for the grades 11 and 12 Active Healthy Lifestyles courses, the Grade 11, Mental and Emotional Health and the Grade 12 Healthy Relationships both provide opportunity to address gender identity issues.

In addition, the Winnipeg School Division has created Policy IGABB-Safe and Caring Policy – Trans and Gender Diverse Students and Staff. The Division is committed to providing learning opportunities, dignity, respect and equity for all including transgender and gender diverse students and staff.

Committee members were informed that a revised (2014) Secondary Family Life Education resource was developed by Winnipeg School Division staff and is used to teach family life/sexuality education. This resource was revised to incorporate additional gender identity issues, enhance gender neutral language and be more inclusive of LGBTTQ students. This document was distributed to all grade 7-10 health teachers and is provided at the secondary Family Life /Sexuality education workshop. Grades 7-12 students and teachers were invited and supported to participate in the Rainbow Resource Centre's STAND OUT conference held April 10, 2018.

Committee members were informed that the Inclusion across the Rainbow committee meets 4 times a year. This Divisional Committee has the following goals:

- Ongoing review of existing WSD initiatives, professional development and resources to support LGBTTQ students
- Provide recommendations for enhancing existing supports
- Assess needs based on feedback from students, teachers, principals, senior administration, regarding initiatives and support
- Provide suggestions based on identified needs
- Serve as an advisory committee for local and national initiatives e.g. OUTShine 2017

Committee members were informed that sexual diversity issues are addressed through the Divisional Mental Health Strategic plan, Safe Schools Committee and the Human Rights Resource Group.

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7. DRESS CODE

Committee members were informed that the Winnipeg School Division's Code of Conduct states students should dress appropriately for classes and school activities and that schools often have school specific dress codes or requirements. The student representative from Sisler High School indicated concern on the lack of a specific and well-publicized copy of the division's dress code. The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a division-wide dress code policy to ensure a respectful learning environment while promoting equality and self-expression.

8. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

SCHOOL REPORTS

Student representative from the following school provided a written report (attached) on school activities:

- Elmwood High School

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Reid thanked the students for their time and continuous dedication to the Committee. Certificates of Appreciation will be distributed to students at the end of the school year.

Student Representatives:

Elmwood High School (5:00 p.m.)
Gordon Bell High School
Grant Park High School
Kelvin High School
St. John's High School
Sisler High School

Regrets:

Trustee Broughton
Children of the Earth High School
Churchill High School
Daniel McIntyre Collegiate
R.B. Russell High School
Tec Voc High School

Administration:

Doug Edmond, Director of Research, Planning & Technology Services
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

Trustees:

Arlene Reid

Non-Voting/Resource Members:

Volunteer Manitoba
InformNet Principal

Elmwood High School



505 Chalmers Avenue Phone: 204.667.8823
Winnipeg, MB R2L 0G4 Fax: 204.654.0028
Website: Elmwood High School Winnipeg
Twitter site: @EHS Giants

M. Babb - Principal
mbabb@wsd1.org

J. Tourangeau - Vice-Principal, Gr.10-12
jtourangeau@wsd1.org

L. Rana - Vice-Principal, Gr.7-9
lrana@wsd1.org

May 14, 2018

Recent Highlights at the Home of the Giants:

Our Varsity Boys Basketball Team won the Winnipeg Tier 2 Championship hitting 18 3s.

Our Indigenous Ingenuity Business Team won First Place in Winnipeg and will be competing in Brandon.

Four students and one EA were honoured at the Yes I Can Awards.

Our Bocce Team won the MB Special Olympics event and will be going to Peterborough, Ontario to the Ontario High School Championships.

Our wrestlers won Gold and Silver at the Provincials and one of them competed at the Nationals and won 4th Place in Greco Roman wrestling.

Our Sr. Band performed at the 5-Star level and the Jazz Band at the 4-Star level at the Optimist Festival.

Our JV Boys Basketball Team won 3rd Place in the Winnipeg Tier 2 Play-Offs.

Our Poetry in Voice team placed 3rd at the provincial competition.

One of our teachers, Ms Dickson, won a provincial Teaching Excellence Award.

There was a very successful Multicultural Dinner prior to Spring Break that was supported by a United Way Youth Grant and we just hosted a Multicultural Pot Luck Dinner this week.

An exceptional school-wide Health & Wellness Expo opened with a Keynote from Craig Heisinger on Moose, Canuck and Jet Rick Rypien and Mental Wellness.

We hosted a very successful High 5 Recess Challenge for our local elementary schools.

We hosted a phenomenal Celebration of the Arts with our Drum Line, 3 Bands, 2 Jazz Bands, Choir, Dance and visual Art.

50+ students and staff supported the Mood Disorder Love You Run last Sunday.

Our Canadian Academy of Travel & Tourism (CATT) students continues to support local community activities and big scale events such as the Kidsfest. They are in Ottawa and Montreal this week.

Our Alumni Legacy Committee will have their Updated Donation Plaque Unveiling this week. They have raised close to \$300,000 to support bursaries and scholarships and school programs. They are hosting a 60th Anniversary Celebration on October 19, 2018.

The Elmwood Community Resource Centre has run a very successful Homework and Education for Elmwood Youth (HEEY) program all year in our Library (T, W & Th 4:00-8:00).



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Our PULSE Cooking Program continues to be a great success having students cook a meal, eat together and freeze nutritious meals for future use. Funding support from the Chalmer's Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC) is greatly appreciated.

The CNRC also funded singlets for our wrestling team and our Girls Group and surveyed youth voice for the development of the next 5 Year Plan for the Chalmers neighbourhood.

The Indigenous Leaders Group and the Newcomers Leaders Group continue to provide insight and opportunities to our students.

The Student Success Centre continues to support student learning to a high degree and a large number of students.



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