

THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Thursday, February 20, 2020

1. TREATY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee members acknowledged that the meeting is being held on Treaty One Land and the Traditional Homeland of the Metis Nation.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee members approved the Agenda of February 20, 2020, as distributed.

3. 2020/2021 DRAFT BUDGET

Committee members received an overview of the 2020/2021 Draft Budget. Committee members were informed that on January 30, 2020, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. Committee members were informed that the Manitoba government will increase funding for public schools by more than \$6.6 million for the 2020/2021 school year. Committee members were informed that school divisions also raise revenue through local education property taxes. Committee members were informed that the Manitoba government is again requesting that school divisions limit increases to education property taxes to a maximum of two per cent for the 2020/2021 school year.

Committee members were informed that for the 2020/2021 school year, the Board is proposing a stand pat budget which maintains all programs and services in the WSD.

In response to an enquiry regarding the provincial announcement, Committee members were informed that the Division has not received clarification on the province's 15% administration reduction. Committee members were informed that funding would be reallocated to programs and services. Committee members were informed that an update will be provided at a future meeting.

In response to a concern regarding the funding gap for the French language programs, Committee members were informed that WSD offers dual track and milieu schools. Committee members were informed that additional information regarding the costs will be provided at the next meeting.

Committee members were informed that they can register as a delegate to speak at the Board meeting on March 2, 2020 by registering no later than noon on Thursday, February 27.

4. PROVINCIAL K-12 EDUCATION REVIEW

Committee members were informed that the Commission would be releasing the report to the Minister of Education and Training in February 2020. It is anticipated that the report would be publically released in March 2020, which will include recommendations on the key topic areas identified by the Province. School Boards would not have the ability to provide input on the recommendations and would be obligated to implement the recommendations within the timelines established by the Province. The report and recommendations will be shared with parents indicating the next steps to be in compliance with the direction from the Minister of Education.

Committee members were informed that the Province of Manitoba had suggested that WSD delay the by-election to fill the trustee vacancies for wards 3 and 4 pending results of the K-12 Review. Committee members were informed that the Province did not provide clarification on the request to delay the by-election.

5. BUILD FROM WITHIN

The Director of Indigenous Education was in attendance to provide an overview of the Build from Within Program. Committee members were informed that the Build From Within program is in partnership with the Faculty of Education at University of Winnipeg, and Indspire Canada and other service providers to develop a path for Indigenous High School Students to become teachers.

The primary goal of Build From Within is to recognize and build on Indigenous students' unique strengths and experiences to create competent and motivated teachers who are passionate about their work and want to contribute back as teachers.

Committee members were informed that the many students are provided with bursaries, scholarships, which helps support some of the barriers. Committee members were informed that the program has two cohorts with approximately 60 students registered in the program. Committee members were also informed that the Build from Within Program is a seven-year program which costs approximately seven million dollars.

Committee members were informed that the program has had great results and the model would potentially work in helping to recruit French Immersion teachers.

6. RECRUITMENT

Committee members were informed that two teams of principals have gone Sudbury and Ottawa to recruitment fairs; this practice has been taking place for a few years. Committee members were informed that last year, recruitment became more competitive as other western provinces were also recruiting and providing incentives such as relocation funding. Committee members were informed that WSD is also looking at providing some incentives to stay competitive. Committee members were also informed that WSD has also been active at local recruitment fairs.

7. LANGUAGE COURSES

Committee members were informed that WSD in partnership with Université de St. Boniface is offering two language courses, one for teachers of French and the other for French Immersion teachers. Committee members were informed that WSD hopes to offer two more courses in the Fall. Committee members were also informed that a mini-fit course is being advertised for the spring session (French Immersion for teachers).

In response to an enquiry regarding the former French Immersion Program offered at École Churchill, Committee members were informed that information will be provided at the next meeting.

Committee members suggested that a strategic plan be developed for French Immersion Program. The strategic plan will be added to the agenda for future discussion.

8. FUNDING

Committee members were informed that WSD and individual schools apply on an annual basis for Revitalization Grants from the Province. Committee members were informed that WSD's proposals have been approved and many schools will receive these funds for different activities. Committee members were also informed that WSD provides funding for schools to apply for activities that promote French language and culture programming in all schools.

9. IB PROGRAMMING

Committee members were informed that the administration is researching the different aspects to determine why students transfer out of French Immersion program to the International Baccalaureate (IB) and AP programs. Committee members were informed that preliminary research does not indicate that other school divisions in Winnipeg are offering the IB programme. Committee members were informed that this could be due to the cost in training teachers or the limited demand from students. Committee members were informed that the IB programme is a comprehensive and rigorous program of studies that prepares students for examinations administered worldwide in May. Committee members were informed that in Manitoba, IB French Immersion Diploma Program is currently offered at Collège Louis-Riel. Committee members were informed that language acquisition courses are offered in the Kelvin IB Diploma Program.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the motion presented to the Board on December 2, 2019 regarding French Immersion Program has been referred to the Policy/Program Committee.

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4. FOR INFORMATION

4.1 Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 16, 2019, the Board of Trustees received the French Immersion Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussions as information. The Summary of Discussions have been distributed to Committee members the week of December 16th.

Once reviewed by the Board, District Advisory Committee Reports and Summaries of Discussions are posted on the Division's website under the Family and Community tab.

www.winnipegssd.ca/Parents/Parent%20Council/Pages/Default.aspx

5. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next French Immersion Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Voting Representatives:

Collège Churchill
École J.B. Mitchell
École Lansdowne
École Laura Secord
École River Heights
École Riverview
École Sir William Osler

Administration:

Rob Riel, Director of Indigenous Education
Joy Perrott, Principal, Collège Churchill
Graça Do Coto Moreira, Vice-Principal, École J.B. Mitchell
Andrea Powell, Principal, École Robert H. Smith
Thérèse Deleurme, Recording Secretary, Board of Trustees

Trustees:

Jamie Dumont
Linda Schatkowsky

Regrets:

École Garden Grove
École secondaire Kelvin High
École LaVérendrye
École Robert H. Smith
École Sacré Coeur
École Stanley Knowles
École Victoria-Albert