

INNER CITY DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1-2018

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

February 15, 2018

The Inner City District Advisory Committee reports as follows:

1. 2018/2019 DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Committee was provided with an overview of the 2018/2019 Draft Budget.

The Committee was informed that on February 8, 2017, the Province of Manitoba announced funding for public education. The increase for all of Manitoba for 2018/2019 is .5% or \$6.6 million dollars. The Committee was informed that the portion of the funding allocated to the Division is tied to the number of students enrolled in the Division and equals an increase of .3% or \$600,000 over last year's funding.

The Committee was informed that the Division's costs increase every year due to inflation on required expenses such as Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance Premiums and Payroll Taxes. The Committee was informed that even with the Province's introduction of wage freezes for public sector employees, including teachers, salary increments earned by Division staff must be accounted for in the 2018/2019 budget.

The Committee was informed that the Minister encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2%. The Committee was informed that special requirement is based on the school year and property taxes are based on a calendar year. The Committee was informed that the 2% special requirement equals 3.29% property tax increase in the Division for 2018. The Committee was informed that the Province also announced that it will phase out the tax incentive grant over the next six years.

The Committee was provided with three possible options based on meeting a 2% or 3% special requirement.

The Committee was informed that one option is a 2% special requirement or 3.29% property tax and is based on proposed additions for Health and Safety enhancements, additional resources for program and policy analysis and no reductions to existing programs and services.

The Committee was informed that an alternative option is a 2% special requirement or 3.29% property tax increase and is based on proposed additions for additional resources for program and policy analysis, financial software expenditures, building maintenance, school specialty programming promotional signage, additional teaching support for the Aerospace Program at Tec Voc High School, Health and Safety enhancements, online course delivery and school program additions such as additional funding to support students in care who are 18 to 21 years of age, Morningstar program, Inner City Science Centre. The Committee was informed that proposed reductions to this option include discontinuing the School Resource Officer program, Full-Day Kindergarten program reduction to half-day, converting summer school program to an online course delivery model, reduction of travel budgets and vacancy management.

The Committee was informed that a third option is a 3% special requirement or 3.71% property tax increase and is based on proposed additions such as additional resources for program and policy analysis, building maintenance, school specialty programming promotional signage, additional teaching support for the Aerospace Program at Tec Voc High School, Health and Safety enhancements, online course delivery and school program additions such as additional funding to support students in care who are 18 to 21 years of age, Morningstar program, Inner City Science Centre. This option is based on no reductions to existing programs and services.

The Committee was informed that a 2% special requirement or 3.29% increase on property taxes for education is approximately \$45 per year on the average assessed home value of \$214,200.

In response to a parent enquiry, the Committee was informed that at a meeting held October 2, 2017, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the Division enter into a three-year contract with the City of Winnipeg for the School Resource Officer (SRO) program for the period September 2017 to June 2020.

The Division, the Province and the City of Winnipeg are each responsible for paying one-third of the program, and although not required under the Public Schools Act, the Division is required to increase the Special Levy to support this valuable program and provide the much needed resources that keep our school communities safe for our students.

Although the Province informed the Division that no further funding would be forthcoming, the Board has requested a meeting with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Justice to discuss the importance of the School Resource Officer Program, the financial impact on school divisions and the importance of the Department of Justice to financially support the educational component of justice through the SROs in the public school system and community.

In response to an enquiry, the Committee was informed that the purpose of the additional resources for program and policy analysis is to assist the Division with a review of programs and services.

In response to the enquiry regarding summer school programs, the Committee was informed that the Division is considering reducing the delivery model and offering an online course to reduce costs. Parents were concerned that students who register for summer school may need access to an actual teacher in a classroom setting when extra support is required.

The Committee discussed the importance of the implementation of a new financial software program. The Committee was informed that the current payroll software is obsolete and the ability to manage problems is becoming increasingly challenging. The financial program software the Division will acquire is specific to large school divisions.

In response to an enquiry, regarding the cost of the Nursery program, the Committee was informed that the Nursery program costs approximately \$5,000,000.

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

The Committee was 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 26, 2018 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 5, 2018. 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 12, 2018.

2. POLICY EEA – TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS

The Committee was informed that at a meeting held February 5, 2018, the Board of Trustees approved a motion that the revised Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be distributed to District Advisory Committees for discussion.

The Committee received the revised policy which includes provisions for a fee-for-service, and processing fee for those students who meet the criteria under the Courtesy Seat provision. The revisions also include clarification on areas deemed hazardous.

The Committee was informed that the revised policy includes a fee for service cost that would be equivalent to the new City of Winnipeg rates at \$70 per month for a student transit bus pass. The new fees would include a reduced fee of \$35 per month for each additional child effective the 2018/2019 school year.

In addition, the Committee was informed that the policy includes a non-refundable \$25 fee be applied to process applications for those who do not meet eligibility requirements and are applying under the Courtesy Seat / Fee for Service option.

The Committee was also informed that the policy also includes a provision for identifying hazardous area considerations, and that the schools identified as a hazard area be reviewed by the Transportation Department on an annual basis.

3. SCHOOL NAMES

The Committee was informed that the Board of Trustees would like to remind parents and school representatives to review the background of their school's name and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

The Committee received a copy of the guideline Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area as well as the biographies of school names.

Respectfully Submitted,

KEVIN FREEDMAN
Trustee Representative

Inner City District Advisory Committee Report No. 1-2018

IN ATTENDANCE:

Representatives:	Administration:
Alexa Rosentreter, David Livingstone School	Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services
Mary Chuol, Hugh John Macdonald School	Rob Riel, Director of Aboriginal Education & Newcomer Services
Crystal Dalke, John M. King School	Brad Corbett, Director Enrichment & Science
Nadine Fontaine, Mulvey School	Paul Kochan, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary Treasurer
Charlene Meekis, Norquay School	Patricia Graham, Principal, Argyle School
Cyndi Oleschak, Pinkham School	Tim Cox, Principal, David Livingstone
Diane Harper, Sister MacNamara School	Vinh Huynh, Principal, Hugh John Macdonald
Cristian Pena, William Whyte School	Anastasia Karagiannis-Bell, Vice-Principal, Hugh John Macdonald
	Lucy Schnaider, Principal, John M. King School
Alternate Representatives	Wendy Verbong, Vice-Principal, John M. King
Dallas Wood, William Whyte School	Amie Johnston, Vice-Principal, King Edward School
	Peter Correia, Principal, Mulvey School
Non-Voting/Resource Members:	Stacie Edgar, Vice-Principal, Mulvey School
Children of the Earth School Social Worker	Chris Goring, Principal, Niji Mahkwa School
Mulvey School Social Worker	Lisa Richardson, Vice-Principal, Norquay School
Norquay School Social Worker	Val Mowez, Principal, Pinkham School
Victoria-Albert School Social Worker	Alice Williams, Vice-Principal, Sister MacNamara School
William Whyte School Social Worker	Marla Tran, Vice-Principal, École Victoria-Albert School
Consultant, Prince Charles Education Resource Centre	Cinzia Caputo, Principal, William Whyte School
Mulvey School parent representative	Aaron Benarroch, Principal, WAEC
Victoria-Albert School parent representative	Lorraine Spence, Recording Secretary
William Whyte School parent representative	
Community Members	Trustees:
	Kevin Freedman
Regrets:	Cathy Collins
Children of the Earth High School	Chris Broughton
General Wolfe School	Mike Babinsky
R.B. Russell High School	Arlene Reid
Wellington School	