

# THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

## SOUTH DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 20, 2018

#### 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Committee members approved the Agenda of February 20, 2018, as distributed.

#### 2. 2018/2019 DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Committee members were provided with an overview of the 2018/2019 Draft Budget.

Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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.

Committee members were informed that the Minister encouraged school boards to limit the special requirement increase to 2%. Committee members were 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. Committee members were informed that the Province also announced that it will phase out the tax incentive grant over the next six years.

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

Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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. Committee members were 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.

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Committee members were 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.

Committee members were 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.

A Committee member expressed concern on the reduction to staffing resources. Committee members were informed that the Division could see a savings of \$1,652,900 through vacancy management. Committee members were informed that approximately twenty positions would not be replaced through attrition.

Committee members expressed concern on the reduction to the full day Kindergarten program. Committee members were informed that although the program is not mandated by the Province, several Board members support retaining the program.

A parent representative expressed concern that reductions to the full day Kindergarten program would result in parents struggling to find daycare spaces.

Committee members were informed that the Board advocates on behalf of the Division to continue discussions with the Province and seek alternatives to education funding. Committee members were encouraged to contact their MLA, Premier or Minister of Education to share their opinions of education funding.

Committee members were informed that the Board continues to seek ways to increase revenues. Committee members were informed that the Board has approved the establishment of an International Education Program which will result in a net revenue of \$501,900.

In response to a parent enquiry, Committee members were 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.

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In response to an enquiry on building maintenance, Committee members were informed that the Division's Building Department does regular inspections on all buildings to identify necessary upgrades. Many schools in the Division are 60 to 100 years old. A number of projects have been deferred in previous budgets to ensure programs and services could be maintained. These items, such as window replacements and plumbing upgrades, become more serious with each passing year and need to be addressed. Committee members were also informed that the Division submits a Five-Year Capital Plan yearly which identifies and prioritizes maintenance, repairs or additions. Committee members were informed that the Public Schools Finance Board assists the Division with capital projects, other repairs become the responsibility of the Division.

Committee members were informed that the Provincial Government has introduced a bill (Bill 28) that establishes a four-year sustainability period during which the compensation for public sector employees may not be increased except by the percentages permitted by the Bill. In the first two years of the sustainability period, unionized and non-unionized public sector employees receive no pay increase. In the third year, a maximum of 0.75% is permitted and in the fourth year a maximum increase of 1.0% is permitted.

Committee members were informed that the current provincial government has suggested that a review of school division amalgamation will take place after the 2018 municipal elections.

Committee members were informed that amalgamation may eliminate some of Manitoba's 37 school boards and would cut administration costs and save tax dollars, although it may achieve minimal savings at the cost of meeting localized education needs.

Committee members were informed that the members of the Board will continue to seek clarification from the Minister of Education on the intent of amalgamation and share concerns on the impact an amalgamation will have on the Division's ability to provide unique programs and services that are required to support students and community.

Committee members were informed that the Division faces further challenges as downtown growth is promoted under the Community Revitalization Tax Increment Financing Act (TIF). The School Division receives less property taxation for properties identified under TIF designation.

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

Committee members were 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](http://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.

### **3. POLICY EEA – TRANSPORTATION OF PUPILS**

Committee members were informed that at a previous meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the motion that on an interim basis, Policy EEA – Transportation of Pupils be revised to include provisions for Courtesy Transportation Services and that the Board would continue its review of the Fee for Service option for possible implementation in the 2018/2019 school year.

Committee members were 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.

Committee members 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.

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

### **4. SCHOOL NAMES**

In the spring of the 2017, Committees members received a copy of the Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area guideline as well as the biographies of school names. Parent representatives were encouraged to share this information with their respective Parent Advisory Committees and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

Committee members were reminded that parents and school representatives review the background of their school's name and advise the Board if consideration should be given to the renaming of their school.

Committee members received a copy of the guideline Naming/Renaming of Schools and Special Purpose Area as well as the biographies of school names. Committee members were informed that school's history may be found on the Division's website at [www.winnipegssd.ca](http://www.winnipegssd.ca) under the heading *Our Schools*.

**5. FOR INFORMATION**

**5.1 Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools**

Committee members received a copy of Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools and were informed that at a meeting held on January 15, 2018, the Board of Trustees approved revisions to the policy.

Committee members were informed that the revisions to Policy IGDF – Fundraising in Schools outlines the guidelines for school initiated fundraisers, Parent Council Fundraisers, as well as the responsibilities of student/parent councils and principals.

**5.2 Guidelines – Adding Agenda Items for discussion at District Advisory Committee Meetings**

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 4, 2017, the Board of Trustees requested that the process for adding items to the agenda for District Advisory Committee Meetings be provided to District Advisory Committee members for information.

Committee members were informed that in accordance with the Board Advisory Committee Guidelines, members may request to add agenda items during the approval of the agenda. The chairperson shall ask if there are any amendments to the Agenda. At this point, any Committee member may make a motion that something be added to the Agenda. In order for the Agenda to be revised to include new items, the revised agenda must be voted on and must be approved by the majority of the members present. It is recommended that no motions be made on any new items that are added to the Agenda as the representatives would not have had the opportunity to discuss the item with their parent/student council. However, discussion may take place on new items to provide information for representatives to take back to their parent/student councils for discussion and report back to the next Advisory Committee.

Committee members were informed that any member of the District Advisory Committee can request an item be added to an upcoming District Advisory Committee Agenda by contacting the Committee Chair/Board and Community Liaison Officer.

Committee members were informed that Advisory Committees should not take action or make representations to outside groups in the name of the Advisory Committee without the endorsement of the Board of Trustees. Advisory Committees should not receive delegations from the public. Delegations are received by the Board at special meetings. Advisory Committees should not discuss personnel matters or individual student concerns. These issues should be discussed with the school principal directly.

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### 5.3 District Advisory Reports and Summaries of Discussions

Committee members were informed that at a meeting held December 4, 2017, the Board of Trustees received the South District Advisory Committee Report and Summary of Discussions as information. The Summary of Discussions have been distributed to Committee members the week of December 4, 2017. Committee members were informed that 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.winnipegsd.ca/Parents/Parent%20Council/Pages/Default.aspx](http://www.winnipegsd.ca/Parents/Parent%20Council/Pages/Default.aspx)

## 6. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS

### SCHOOL REPORTS

Parent representatives from the following schools provided a written report (attached) on school activities:

- École Robert H. Smith School

## 7. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the South District Advisory Committee will be held Tuesday, May 8, 2018.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

#### **Voting Representatives:**

Beth Smyth, Collège Churchill  
Tanya Sigurdson, Earl Grey School  
Andrea Villeneuve, Grant Park High School  
Lorna Thomas, Grosvenor School  
Lisa Smit-Beiko, Harrow School  
Doug Thiessen, Ecole J.B. Mitchell School  
Lindsay Wright, Queenston School  
Dawn Clarke, Ecole River Heights School  
Orla Nazarko, Ecole Riverview School  
James Wright, Ecole Robert H. Smith School  
Kaleigh Hamilton, Ecole Sir William Osler

#### **Alternates:**

Carpathia School parent representatives  
Earl Grey School parent representatives  
Harrow School parent representatives

#### **Trustees:**

Chris Broughton  
Mark Wasyliw  
Sherri Rollins  
Mike Babinsky  
Arlene Reid

#### **Administration:**

Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent  
Julie Millar, Director of Student Services  
Paul Kochan, Chief Financial Officer & Secretary-Treasurer  
Gordon Armstrong, Principal, Carpathia School  
Evelyn Siddall, Principal, Harrow School  
Wade Gregg, Principal, Queenston School  
Susan Drysdale, Vice-Principal, Ecole River Heights School  
Grant Bridgeman, Principal, Ecole Riverview School  
Camie Lawson, Vice-Principal, Ecole Riverview School  
Dominique Ostermann, Ecole Robert H. Smith School  
Helena Tessier, Recording Secretary

#### **Non-Voting/Resource Members:**

Earl Grey School Teaching staff  
Harrow School Teaching staff

#### **Regrets:**

Brock Corydon School  
Gladstone School  
Ecole secondaire Kelvin High School  
Ecole LaVerendrye

**École Robert H. Smith School  
South District Advisory Report  
February 20, 2018**

**WSD Strategic Priorities 2017-2020**

- **Students:** To provide robust and comprehensive education, equitable access, diverse opportunity and a supportive learning environment for all students to help them prepare for their journey with values of learning and social justice, and to be responsible community members.
- **Learning Outcomes:** To further improve school attendance, achievements, and graduation rates through the exploration of additional programs and strategies.
- **Addressing Barriers of Learning:** To further develop initiatives and innovative approaches addressing special needs and accessibility requirements, mental health issues, childcare needs, and nutritional needs.
- **Employees:** To retain, attract, and develop our valued staff who are dedicated to the vision, purpose, values and Principles of Learning of the Winnipeg School Division, and reflect diversity.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** To provide responsible management of tax dollars and resources to ensure long term fiscal sustainability and accountability of the programs, facilities, and service that we provide.
- **Communications and Partnerships with Community:** To further develop communications and partnerships with the communities we serve, parents, families, government, business, health, and social service agencies, Indigenous education, other community organizations, and our valued volunteers.
- **Sustainability:** To strengthen and enhance sustainable development initiatives that address environmental, social, and economic values.

**École Robert H. Smith School Priorities include:**

1. Develop within students an increased knowledge, attitude and behaviour of the three pillars of Education for Sustainable Development so that students may integrate these practices into their daily lives and their learning.
2. Students will develop an increased awareness of the seven science processes skills (classifying, observing, measuring, inferring, predicting, communicating, experimenting) in order to apply them to the learning of new knowledge in scientific studies and other related content curriculums.
3. Students will develop a greater depth of understanding related to the principles of numeracy and literacy in order to independently engage in innovative learning opportunities.

### École Robert H. Smith School Report:

1. Canadian Citizenship Ceremony on Monday January 23, 2018 at Robert H Smith School was another success. Our guests really appreciated our school support and our grade 5/6 choir sang a heartfelt song that brought everyone to tears. The song was called "In the Arms of an Oak".
2. Festival du Voyageur activity day Thursday, Feb 1, 2018. We had activities in the morning and Gerald Laroche performed in the afternoon for everyone.
3. Open House was held on Wednesday January 31 at 1:30pm and 6:30pm once again. Our Nursery Registration on Wednesday February 7 and Kindergarten Registration on Wednesday February 14.
4. Professional Development Day on Friday January 19, 2018. Our teachers did the Blanket Exercise in the morning in our gym and had an afternoon focusing on mental health/wellness.
5. Roots and Shoots initiatives and chimpanzee names given to Jenn Duffy for her to select. The name they chose with 40% of their votes is 'HOPE'. We now have our chimpanzee mascot named Hope!
6. Roots and Shoots voting ended today for the grant that we applied for the month of June. We will be celebrating Indigenous Week this year. The grant is for indigenous astronomy and indigenous drumming and dancing.
7. Science Fair for Grade 4-6 was on February 5 and once again, our very own teachers judged. This is something we tried last year and it worked very well. This alleviates any problems with getting principals from other schools coming to judge. We know they are all very busy.
8. Our students once again are participating in Weekend Morning Art Classes sponsored by our school division.
9. Community Breakfast on Friday, March 2, 2018 from 6:30am-9:30am. This year all the funds go to the Jane Goodall Institute of Canada because we are a Roots and Shoots School. The principle of being a Roots and Shoots School is to make the world a better place for Animals, People and the Environment.
10. Concours d'art Oratoire on February 22, 2018 in our gym for grades 3-6 and we will be hosting division finals on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm
11. Speed Skating at the MTS Centre on Monday February 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm this year and our students are participating again.
12. Congratulations to our students who participated in the WSD musical "The Circle of Life". Over 1000 students participated.

