

## THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

### FRENCH IMMERSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS – Tuesday, February 22, 2022

#### 1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA

The Committee members were informed that the French Immersion District Advisory Committee meeting is taking place on Treaty One Land and the traditional homeland of the Red River Métis.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee members approved the Agenda of February 22, 2022, as distributed.

#### 3. WSD 2022/2023 DRAFT BUDGET

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO was in attendance and provided an overview of the Draft Budget for the 2022/2023 school year.

Committee members were informed that last year the Board of Trustees approved the 2021/2022 Budget in the amount of \$421,039,400. Committee members were informed that the Division was forced to make reductions of \$4,457,395 for programs and services due to a drop in provincial funding of 1.6 percent or \$2,926,520. This also included the direction from the provincial government to freeze the property tax levies at 2020 levels.

Committee members were informed the Board of Trustees is proposing a budget of \$437,118,200. Baseline funding has decreased by 1.3 percent, or \$2,325,538, while one-time funding of \$13,217,517 has been provided for next year and property tax levies for education remain frozen at 2020 levels. Committee members were informed that the one-time funding for 2022/2023 is intended to cover collective agreement settlements and additional costs related to pandemic staffing. Committee members were informed that the draft budget proposes no additions for 2022/2023 and no further reductions.

Committee members were informed that a large portion of the budget is determined by student enrolment numbers each year. The Province acknowledged that the lower student enrolment was related to the pandemic and implemented a hybrid enrolment calculation that was higher than the actual student enrolment numbers. Committee members were informed that even with the hybrid calculation funding for the Division resulted in a 3.14 percent or approximately \$13,700,000 deficit. However, the one-time funding of approximately \$13,000,000 provided by the province and the elimination of the Full-Day Kindergarten program, provided sufficient funding to offset deficit.

Committee members were informed that although the hybrid enrolment calculation and the one-time funding from the province has assisted in balancing the budget for this year, future budgets are still at risk without additional funding for education.

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In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the funding gap for French Language programs is the difference between the funding required to operate the programs and the funding actually received from the province. Committee members were informed that the Division was expecting to receive \$46M in funding for the French Language programs, however, only \$12M was received from the province. Committee members were informed that this resulted in an expenditure gap in funding of \$34M. Committee members were informed that the Provincial Government is under funding the French Immersion program.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Division will continue discussions with the Provincial Government regarding additional funding of French Immersion and Special Needs programs.

A parent representative commented that other school divisions do not have French Immersion program and is thankful that the Division is committed to providing resources to fund French Immersion programs.

In response to an enquiry, Committee members were informed that the Division has Air Quality improvement projects that are moving forward. A parent representative requested to add Air Quality as an agenda item at the next Advisory Committee.

Committee members were informed that the Board of Trustees will be hosting a Special Meeting on February 28, at 7:00 PM to receive feedback and delegations regarding the 2022/2023 Budget. Anyone wishing to provide a delegation would need to register with the Board prior to February 24, 2022.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRENCH IMMERSION PLAN**

The Superintendent, Education Services was in attendance and provided an overview of the French Immersion Plan.

Committee members were informed that the French Immersion plan was created by the Principals and Vice-Principals for the yearly school planning. The French Immersion plan is the result of a 5-year study by the Provincial Government and the Division.

Committee members were informed that the French Immersion Plan is divided into four major sections; Creating a French Immersion Setting, Validation of Students' Linguistic and Educational Experience, Educational Staff and Professional Learning and Student Enrolment Trends.

Committee members were informed that the four major sections are divided into subsections that have strategies and actions. Under the Creating a French Immersion Setting section, it is divided in four subsections: Intensive exposure to the French language, Qualified Educational Staff and Personnel, A linguistically Rich Environment and Inclusion and Appropriate Support for all Students.

Committee members were informed that some of the strategies under Creating French Immersion Setting are: conduct early recruitment in the Fall year-round, hire French speaking Clinicians and bilingual staff including Educational Assistants, Clerks, Custodians, collaborate with Association Canadienne des Professionels de l'immersion (ACPI), Université des Saint-Boniface(USB) for effective early recruitment of qualified bilingual personnel, and continue to offer support and activities to promote language for all students.

Committee members were informed that some of the actions/planning going forward for Creating French Immersion setting are: continue Professional Development to familiarize teachers with new curriculum, hire sufficient French Immersion pool of teachers to fill substitute requests, ensure Specialists are bilingual, collaborate with Red River College and Université de Saint-Boniface in developing an Educational Assistant program and training course en francais, provide funding so French pre-hires can attend English Classes, provide funding to support educators who need to improve their French language skills.

## **5. FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Principal of École Sir William Osler was in attendance and provided an overview of the French Immersion Program update.

Committee members were informed that the goal of the French Immersion Program is to create an environment that provides a linguistically rich experience where students are proud, engaged, confident, French language learners.

Committee members were informed that École Sir William Osler focused on the two sections of the plan; Creating a French Immersion Setting and Validation of students' linguistic and educational experience.

Committee members were informed that École Sir William Osler's Mission Statement is that they are dedicated to working in partnership with students and families to nurture an enriching French learning community, in a caring and safe environment, to ensure the success of all students. By creating a positive atmosphere and working collaboratively, they guide and challenge all children to develop to their full academic, artistic, physical, social and emotional potential and inspire a passion for learning French.

Committee members were informed that the French Immersion Program's priorities are to ensure that students develop a solid base in French verbal language; an understanding related to the strategies and processes in reading and writing; and engage in independent and innovative learning.

## **5. ENQUIRIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SCHOOL REPORTS**

### SCHOOL REPORTS

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

- NIL

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**In Attendance:**

**Voting Representatives:**

École Secondaire Kelvin  
École Lansdowne  
École Laura Secord  
École Laverendrye  
École River Heights  
École Robert H. Smith  
École Sir William Osler  
École Waterford Springs

**Regrets:**

Collège Churchill High School  
École Garden Grove  
École George V  
École J.B. Mitchell  
École Luxton  
École Sacre-Coeur  
École Stanley Knowles  
École Victoria Albert  
École Sisler High School  
École Riverview

**Administration:**

Fatima Mota, Superintendent  
Paul Kochan, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO  
Brenda Lapointe, Board and Community Liaison Officer  
Ryan Hughes, Principal, College Churchill High School  
Nathan Tocher, Vice-Principal, College Churchill High School  
Nancy Karpinsky, Principal, École Garden Grove  
Nicole Kurtz, Vice-Principal, École J.B. Mitchell  
Timothy Cox, Principal, École Secondaire Kelvin  
Maria Silva, Principal École Laverendrye  
Dominic Zagari, Principal École River Heights  
Laurenne Parnell, Vice-Principal École River Heights  
Amanda Capina, Vice-Principal, Sisler High School  
Dominique Ostermann, Principal, École, Sir William Osler  
Elisa Solomon, Recording Secretary

**Non-Voting/Resource Members**

Employee Group Representative, W.A.N.T.E.

**Trustees:**

Jamie Dumont  
Yijie (Jennifer) Chen (Regrets)