

Safe Caring Inclusive

2015/16 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





creating student success



PURPOSE

The River East Transcona School Division exists to educate students to be inspired, skilled, responsible citizens.

VISION

The River East Transcona School Division will be forward-looking, innovative, and service-oriented, offering superior, comprehensive programming to meet the emerging needs of our students and community.

MISSION

To fulfil our purpose and in our journey toward our vision, the River East Transcona School Division is committed to provide relevant, progressive educational programming and supportive services in a safe, stimulating learning environment.

DIVISIONAL PRIORITIES 2015/16

Literacy: Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate literacy instruction.

Safe Schools: Enhance the climate and culture in all schools by further developing caring, safe and inclusive schools.

Numeracy: Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate mathematics instruction.

Technology-Enabled Learning: Enhance student achievement through investments in educational technology, an integral and integrated teaching and learning resource.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

While our divisional priorities related to literacy, numeracy and technology are certainly imperative, I am especially proud to be part of a division that is committed to creating safe, caring and inclusive schools.

A safe and peaceful learning environment is key in establishing the foundation for creating student success, and our division works hard to ensure our schools are physically and emotionally safe and positive places for all students and staff. Without a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment, learning and participating is nearly impossible.

The leadership our senior administration team provides and the initiatives they direct continue to create success for the students of RETSD. Our school administration and all our staff also work very hard to support these initiatives and help us to educate students to be respectful and responsible citizens. Of this we should be incredibly proud.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our 2015/16 initiatives to create and maintain safe, caring and inclusive schools, and in all other areas the division has prioritized.

Kelly Barkman,
Superintendent/CEO

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

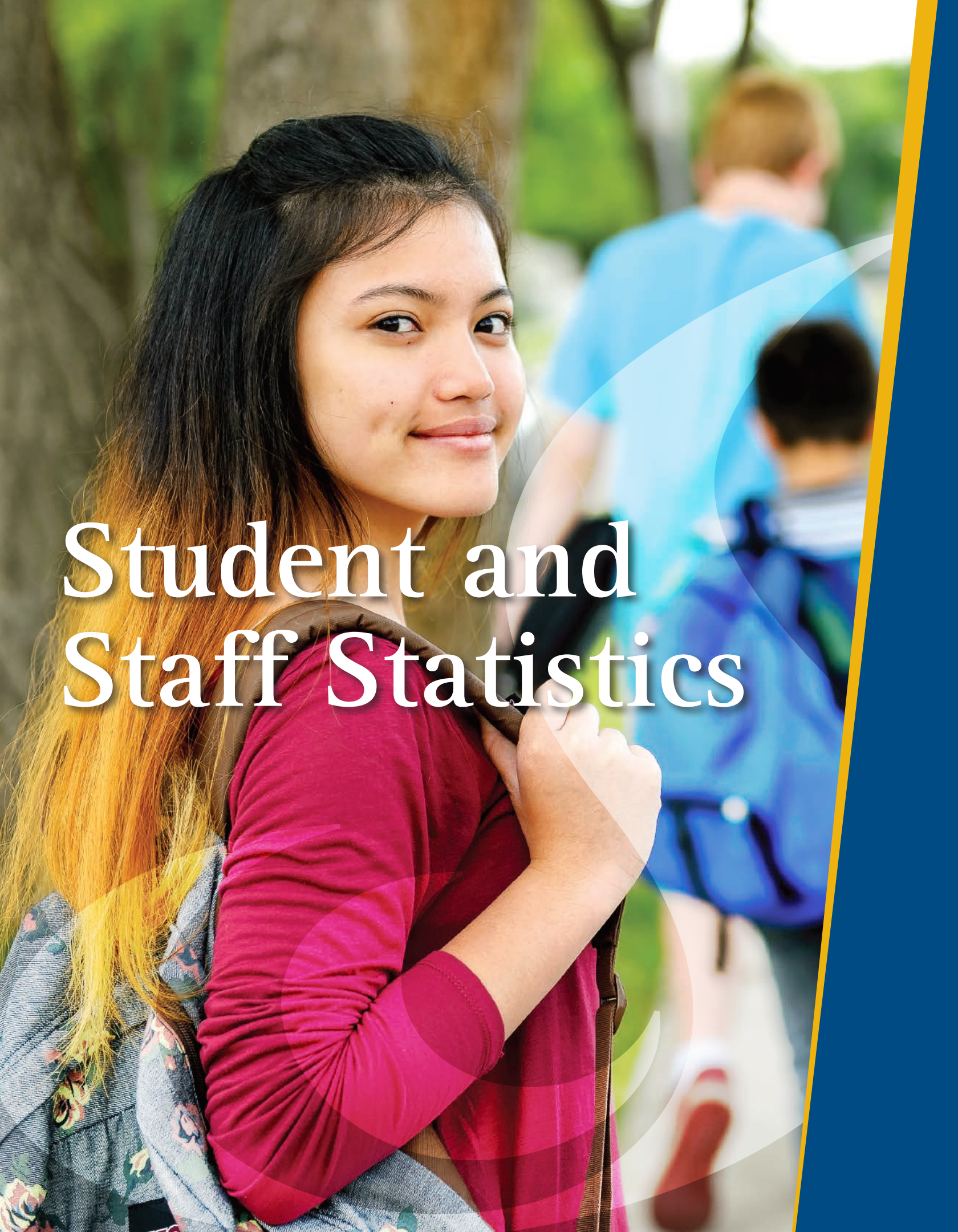
One of the roles of the board of trustees for River East Transcona School Division is to be the link between the community and the division – and with this in mind, we proudly present to you this annual report to the community.

This report provides an overview of some of the major achievements RETSD has accomplished in 2015/16, in terms of both board and divisional priorities.

The school board works as a genuine team to do what is best for the students, the staff and the community of RETSD. We have a wide range of duties, but there are three I believe are especially important: implementing and upholding policies that help guide the practices that reflect who and what the school division is; setting annual budgets that strive to represent what's best for students and staff at a cost their taxpayers can afford; and hiring senior administrators, the group with whom we work most closely.

We are proud of the work we've accomplished in 2015/16 and look forward to welcoming Brianne Goertzen to the board as we work towards our goals and priorities for 2016/17.

Colleen Carswell,
Chair, Board of Trustees 2015/16



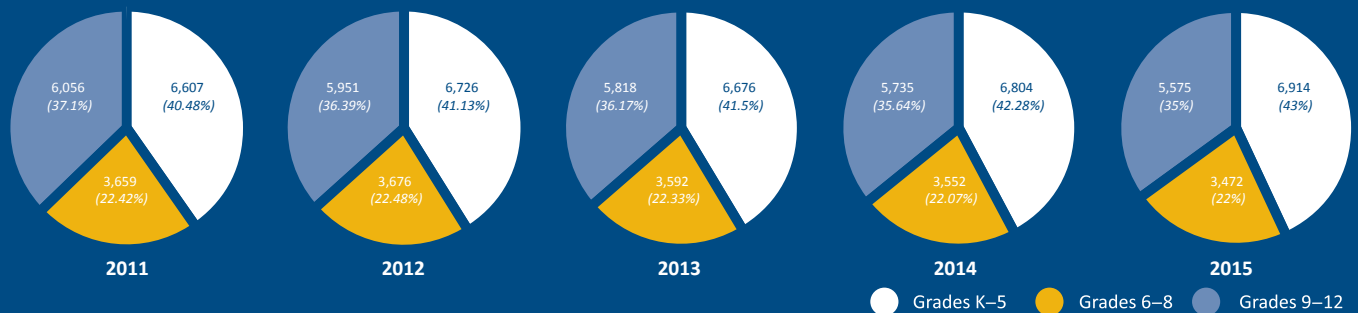
Student and Staff Statistics

GRADUATION 2016

Regular	907
Vocational	32
Dual Diploma	92
French Immersion	137
Mature Student	20
Special	9

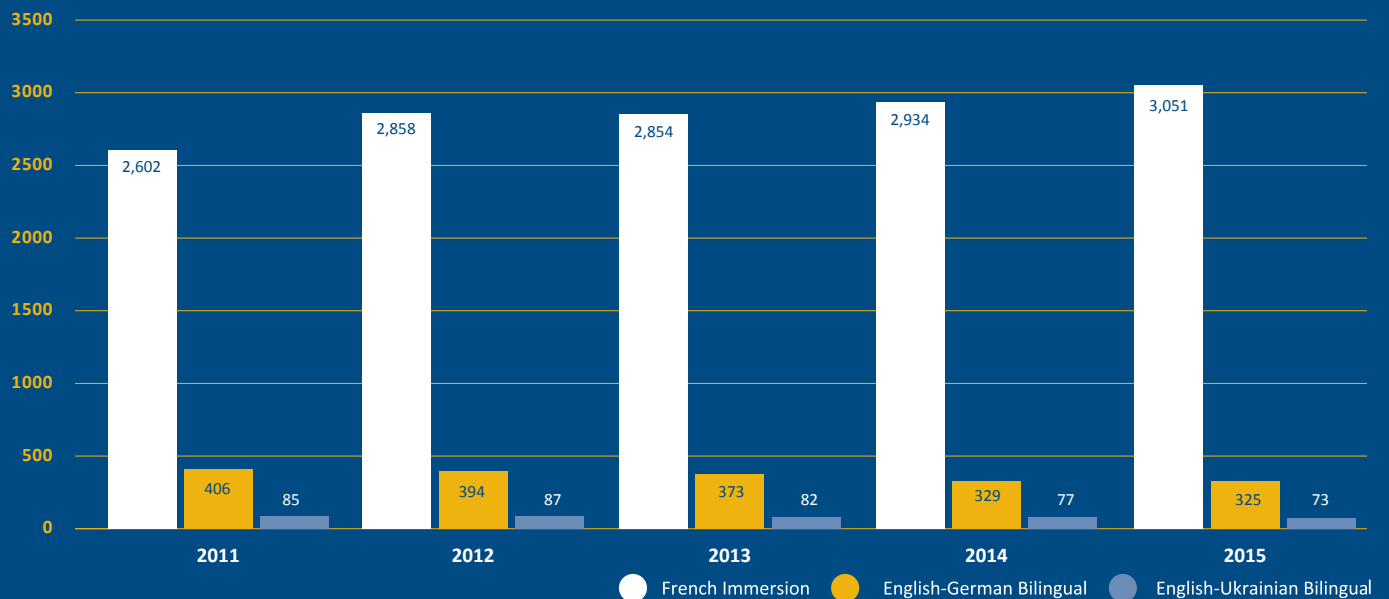
STUDENT ENROLMENT (SEPTEMBER 30)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS/PERCENTAGE OF DIVISION TOTAL

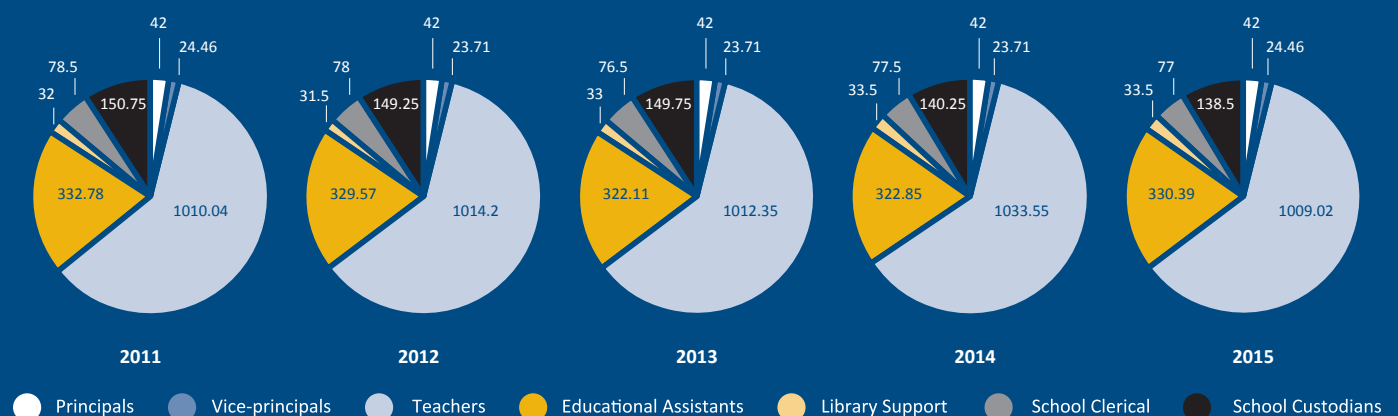


LANGUAGE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SEPTEMBER 30)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS



SCHOOL-BASED STAFF (SEPTEMBER 30, FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS)



Enhancing Student Success

LAUNCHING A MENTAL HEALTH STEERING COMMITTEE

Community mental health resources aren't always tailored to fit a school setting. That's why a divisional mental health steering committee is working to provide teachers with additional support to meet the needs of students experiencing mental health difficulties.

The committee aims to increase awareness and promote conversations about mental health as a way to remove the stigma often associated with mental illness:

- Regular "Spotlight on Mental Health" emails are sent to all employees in the division
- Age-appropriate lesson plans are being developed to enhance existing curriculum and address students' social-emotional well-being
- Posters are being created to help students understand their own mental health status through the lens of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making

INTRODUCING GENDER IDENTITY GUIDELINES

Gender identity guidelines developed by RETSD ensure transgender students and employees have a safe and inclusive place to learn and work.

The guidelines underpin the division's Respect for Human Diversity and Human Rights policies and cover a wide range of areas, including confidentiality, self-identification, names/pronouns, student records, washroom and change room access, gender-separated activities and curriculum integration.

Accepted by the board of trustees in November 2015, the guidelines are the culmination of almost a year of work prompted by a request from a transgender student to use the girls' washroom. Previously, transgender students and staff were expected to use a gender neutral washroom. The new guidelines allow transgender students and staff to use the gender neutral washroom or the one that corresponds to their gender identity.

The guidelines were introduced to all current employees, introduced to the wider community at parent council meetings and all new employees learn about the guidelines as part of their orientation.

The guidelines are posted on the division website. Schools and workplaces also have been provided with checklists outlining the steps they need to take to support a student or employee during and following the transition process.

The guidelines and supporting materials have been well received in the division. Students, their families and division employees know that everything is being done to protect the rights of those who are transgender.





PARTNERING WITH HATELESS: PREVENTING BULLYING

RETSD is committed to building and sustaining safe schools, and within this priority is the need to prevent and address the issue of bullying.

From November 16 to 27, presentations were delivered to students in Grade 6 to 9 by a group called Hateless, a Winnipeg-based organization with a proven model of anti-bullying programming.

Presenters told very personal, moving stories about how they have been affected by bullying. As they spoke, the presenters became role models and provided concrete strategies for dealing with bullying, including positive self-talk.

The performances and presentations were engaging, entertaining and educational. Hateless left an impactful message for students to think about, tools to deal with bullying and reminders to be proud of yourself, be true to yourself and find your passion.

WELCOMING SYRIAN REFUGEES

More than 70 Syrian refugee students have found a safe place to learn in classrooms in RETSD, making the division home to the second-highest number of Syrian students in the province.

The students are learning English and receiving other supports as they integrate into Canadian society. Their families also receive assistance through River East Transcona Immigrant Services (RETIS), which provides settlement services, English classes, activities for children and families, and parenting workshops.

With the support of outside agencies and with funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, RETIS settlement workers also arrange for home visits to complete needs assessments and identify exactly what services will most benefit families.



SUPPORTING APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

This year, about 50 students aged 13 to 16 attended RETSD's first-ever weeklong summer camp where they learned about potential career paths and developed basic skills in the fields of carpentry, electrical and culinary arts.

The carpentry students built several doghouses and the electrical students outfitted them with heat lamps and photosensitive lights. Meanwhile, the culinary students created gingerbread doghouses. The students' finished products were auctioned to raise money for Manitoba Mutts Dog Rescue.

Participants also had a chance to learn more about the High School Apprenticeship Program, where they can become apprentices and start working towards certification in a trade while still in high school.

STRENGTHENING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN MATH

RETSD is working hard to help students strengthen their math skills.

In 2015/16, the division expanded its Technology-Enabled Learning Plan (TELP), which equips math classrooms with a set of iPads loaded with specially-selected math apps and tools and provides extensive training for teachers to use them as an additional tool for teaching and learning. TELP was introduced to students in grades 4 and 7 in 2014/15, and then to grades 5 and 8 in 2015/16.

Criteria for determining the success of the TELP project has been developed and results are being closely monitored to measure the impact it has on math outcomes.

FOCUSING ON LITERACY

Classroom programming is designed to meet the needs of all students, and inclusive, comprehensive literacy initiatives continue to be an important piece of this puzzle.

Teachers are using the Regie Routman Residency philosophy, which supports writing for an audience and purpose, demonstrating the writing process for students and creating a community of writers who share their work. The division has a “hub” school where early and middle years teachers new to the Regie Routman approach can observe the teaching method during a weeklong residency and take it back to their schools.

Some senior years teachers attended a workshop to help them in improving students’ reading comprehension in all subjects, not just language arts, and are applying what they learned in their teaching. More teachers will attend these workshops in 2016/17.

Meanwhile, Reading Recovery® continues to identify and provide extra help to Grade 1 students who experience difficulty in reading and writing. Students receive daily, 30-minute individual lessons outside the classroom for 12 to 20 weeks, delivered by specially trained teachers. The lessons aim to strengthen their reading and comprehension skills and teach them the strategies they need for continued academic success.



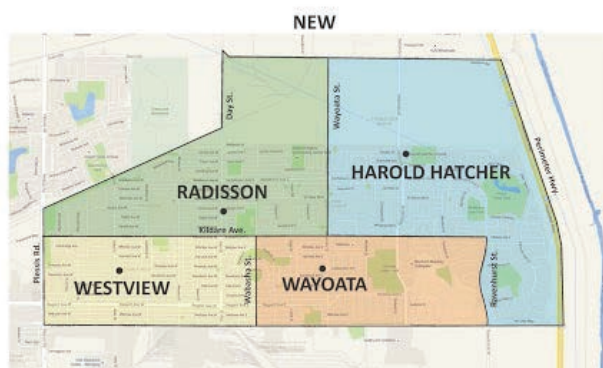
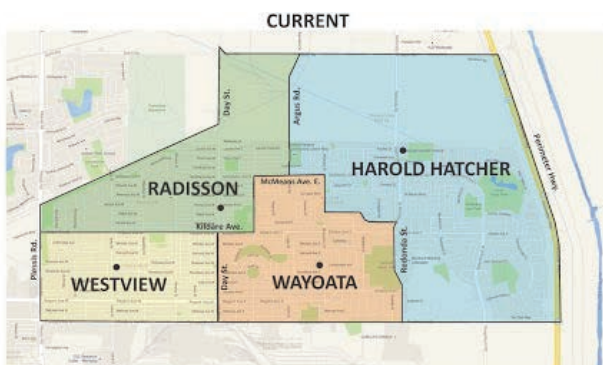
Making the Move

CHANGING TRANSCONA BOUNDARIES

Students in some early years schools in the east end of Transcona will begin making the move to different schools in September 2016.

In January 2016, the board of trustees approved the realignment of catchment boundaries of four early years schools, meaning that some kindergarten and Grade 1 students from Harold Hatcher will move to Radisson and Wayoata schools, while some Wayoata students will move to either Harold Hatcher, Radisson or Westview schools.

The moves will be completed by September 2017 and are intended to address issues of overcrowding at Harold Hatcher. The provincial government will not consider funding an addition at Harold Hatcher or building a new school until the division has exhausted other options for accommodating students.



RECONFIGURING MILES MACDONELL CATCHMENT

"Making the Move" is the final phase of a long-standing initiative to make grade groupings uniform across the division that match students' academic, social, emotional and developmental stages. The plan was approved by the board of trustees in the fall of 2015 and made for a busy year for staff in charge of carrying out the plan.

Nine schools in the Miles Macdonell Collegiate catchment area were reconfigured to kindergarten to Grade 5, Grade 6 to 8 and Grade 9 to 12 grade groupings, effective September 2016.

- Staff at Angus McKay, Lord Wolseley, Neil Campbell, Prince Edward and Polson prepared to become K–5 schools and readied their Grade 6 students to move to John Henderson or Munroe junior high schools.
- Grade 6 French immersion students relocated from Salisbury Morse Place to John Henderson.
- John Henderson and Munroe prepared to welcome Grade 6 students and said farewell to their Grade 8 and 9 students, who are moving to Miles Macdonell Collegiate in the fall. Meanwhile, Miles Macdonell prepared to welcome approximately 200 Grade 9 students.

As part of the plan, the Late Entry French Immersion Program offered at Munroe Junior High School was changed to begin in Grade 6 effective September 2016.

Getting to Know RETSD Trustees

LEARNING ABOUT YOUR TRUSTEES

RETSD's trustees want to help their constituents get to know them a little better and to understand what their jobs entail. That's why, in April 2016, their biographies were posted on the division website. In these biographies, the trustees share what motivated them to run for election and talk about their roles as trustees, along with the responsibilities and challenges that come with their jobs.

The biographies are the first phase of a two-phase plan to raise their profile in the community. In June, the trustees each faced the camera for a video about the school board that will be posted on the website in the fall.

Jerry Sodomlak, Ward 1



Eva Prysizney, Ward 3



Rod Giesbrecht, Ward 2



Peter Kotyk, Ward 4



Michael West, Ward 5



Brian Olynik, Ward 4 (Vice-chair)



John Toews, Ward 2



Colleen Carswell, Ward 1 (Chair)



Brianne Goertzen, Ward 3





HONOURING WOMEN TRUSTEES

To mark The Year of Women Trustees and celebrate the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote in Manitoba, the school board invited former women trustees or family representatives to attend a reception in their honour on June 17, 2016.

Current trustees Colleen Carswell and Eva Prysizney volunteered their time to research all of the known women trustees from 1919 onward who served in the various school districts that operated in northeast Winnipeg and outlying areas. Their research led to the creation of a document that includes photos of 50 women trustees, short biographies and a “family tree” of all the districts that eventually became part of River East Transcona School Division.

At the reception, 13 former women trustees were honoured and joined the three current women trustees to reminisce about their years of service on their respective school boards.

ELECTING A NEW TRUSTEE

Brianne Goertzen was sworn in as a trustee for Ward 3 on June 21, 2016, following her win in a byelection on June 11. Ms. Goertzen joins Eva Prysizney in representing Ward 3.

Celebrating Achievements and Milestones





TOMORROW'S ENTREPRENEURS GET THEIR START WE DAY RECOGNIZES GOAT WARS

Language arts, entrepreneurship and sustainable development were the focus as Joseph Teres students planned and prepared for We Care Day in May. Students sold products they designed and produced, many from repurposed materials, to raise money to purchase a well in a developing country through World Vision. They even pitched their products before a trio of local business people who offered praise and advice “Dragon’s Den” style.

Students at John W. Gunn Middle School raised enough money to buy 42 goats that will help sustain poor families in Africa – far exceeding their original goal of 10 goats! Their efforts are just one example of the ways students in RETSD support local and global causes, and the project was an initiative of the school’s 31-member We Club.



HOCKEY SKILLS NET POSITIVE RESULTS

Perfecting hockey skills, building relationships and supporting local charities were all a part of the first annual Transcona High School Hockey Skills Competition held in January.

About 75 players from Transcona Collegiate, Murdoch MacKay Collegiate and Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau tested a variety of hockey skills, but also contributed to their community – as their entry fee for the competition, they could donate used clothing to Siloam Mission, food to Winnipeg Harvest or give money. In the end, a considerable amount of clothing and food was collected, and \$2,000 was raised to share between Siloam, Winnipeg Harvest and the Salvation Army.

CELEBRATING CENTENNIALS

Lord Wolseley and John Pritchard schools marked their 100th anniversaries in 2015 and hundreds of guests helped them celebrate. Students entertained the crowd at the formal program with music and dance and their principals were presented with memorial plaques by the RETSD Board of Trustees. Guests also had a chance to wander the hallways of their youth and browse through memorabilia that sparked many warm memories.

At Lord Wolseley, former Grade 6 students came to open the time capsules they had created in 1990. The school also unveiled its legacy project: a 100th anniversary commemorative book created by the students.

RETSO SCHOOL BOARD MEDALISTS



Prabhjot Mundi

Kildonan-East Collegiate
Gold Medalist



Serge Girouard

Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Silver Medalist



Rachel Gador

River East Collegiate
Silver Medalist



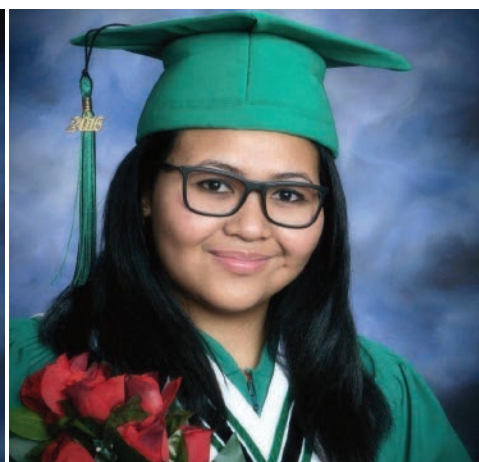
Chantal Delaquis

Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau
Silver Medalist



Codey Melnyk

Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
Silver Medalist



Mika Pineda

Transcona Collegiate
Silver Medalist

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC MEDALISTS

Chantal Delaquis *Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau*

Navjit Singh *Kildonan-East Collegiate*

Tessa Reimer *Miles Macdonell Collegiate*

Kendall Roy *Murdoch MacKay Collegiate*

Rachel Gador *River East Collegiate*

Sem Perez *Transcona Collegiate*

SKILLS MANITOBA COMPETITION GOLD MEDALISTS

Aurora Donaldson

Murdoch MacKay Collegiate

Fashion Technology

Blake Bergen

Kildonan-East Collegiate

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

Katie Romas

Kildonan-East Collegiate

Baking

Narathip Sarapanya & Madlen Bowen

Miles Macdonell Collegiate

3D Character Computer Animation

CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE PROVINCIAL WINNERS

Brooklynne Grieger

Sun Valley School

Early Immersion, Grades 3 & 4

Andoni Ybanez

Neil Campbell School

Français, Grades 5 & 6

Gabriella Niemczyk

Miles Macdonell Collegiate

Core French, Grades 9 & 10

Jordyn White

Miles Macdonell Collegiate

Late Immersion, Grades 11 & 12

Mariia Nevoit

Miles Macdonell Collegiate

Core French, Grades 11 & 12

Usna Muhindo

Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau

Impromptu, Grades 11 & 12

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS – OTHER STUDENT AND STAFF AWARDS

Erica Ritter

Transcona Collegiate

Governor General's Caring Canadian Award

James Klassen

River East Collegiate

Youth4Music Award, Coalition for Music Education in Canada

Kyle Wittmeier

Murdoch MacKay Collegiate &

Tyler Harper

Kildonan-East Collegiate

Youth Role Model Award, City of Winnipeg

Lana Mackic

Miles Macdonell Collegiate

Manitoba High School Athletic Association Scholar Athlete

Nicole Rogowski

River East Collegiate

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Rashawna Blair

River East Collegiate

Manitoba School Boards Association Citizenship Award

RETSO Board of Trustees; staff Renee

Fletcher (educational assistant, *Emerson Elementary School*) and **Jeff Kula** (teacher, *River East Collegiate*); and students **Sydney Harder** (*Kildonan-East Collegiate*) and **A.J. Sigurdson** (*Arthur Day Middle School*)

Yes I Can! Awards, Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children

Art Shaw

John G. Stewart School

National Child and Youth Care Award, Council of Canadian Child and Youth Care Associations

Barbara Bowles

John Pritchard School

School Administrator Award for Distinguished Service, Manitoba School Library Association

Jena Kjernisted

Bernie Wolfe Community School

Dr. Andy Anderson Young Professional Award, Physical and Health Education Canada

Kara Wickstrom Street

Miles Macdonell Collegiate

Global Citizenship Award for Educators, Manitoba Council for International Co-operation

Ken Clark

River East Collegiate

Kel Brooker Award of Excellence, Manitoba Association of Teachers of English

Laurel Hanna

Radisson School

Builder Award, Manitoba Physical Education Teachers Association

Ray Czayka

Kildonan-East Collegiate

Lifetime Achievement Award, Canadian Culinary Federation (Winnipeg Branch)

Tanis Ziprick

Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton School

Outstanding School Leader, Province of Manitoba

2015/16 Budget Information

River East Transcona trustees are accountable for not just the cost but the quality of education being delivered to the division's 16,000-plus students in 42 schools.

The 2015-16 budget of \$178.5 million was funded by the Province (53%), provincial property tax credit (13%), local taxpayers (31%) and other revenue sources (3%). School taxes increased by 2.2%, or approximately \$32 on a home valued at \$247,000. The mill rate was 13.6.

RETSD's per pupil spending was an average of \$10,960, which was lower than the provincial average of \$12,248. Administrative costs accounted for 2.8% of the total budget, while the provincial cap was 4%.

The 2015-16 budget continued to support the division's Educational Priorities:

- Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate literacy instruction.
- Enhance the climate and culture in all schools by further developing caring, safe and inclusive schools.
- Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate mathematics instruction.
- Enhance student achievement through investments in educational technology, an integral and integrated teaching and learning resource.

Other factors the board considered when setting the budget included:

- Development of a multi-year plan for assessing student achievement and enhancing student success
- Implementation of Year Four of the 20K3 Initiative
- Implementation of the divisional communication strategy
- Development of a plan for the reconfiguration of the Miles Macdonell Collegiate catchment area

YOUR LOONIE AT WORK



Vladimir Sazonov / Shutterstock.com

Salaries and Benefits: 87¢

- 57¢: Classroom instruction
- 10¢: School counselling, resource and library services
- 7¢: School administration
- 8¢: Facility operations, maintenance and student transportation
- 2¢: Division administration
- 3¢: Other

Supplies and Services: 13¢

- 4¢: School supplies and materials
- 7¢: Facility operations, maintenance and student transportation
- 2¢: Other

"We believe that providing a solid education to our children is the foundation of a strong society. And whether we have children in school or not, we all need to help pay for that education, because students are our future."

- Board Chair, **Colleen Carswell**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Back row, from left: Michael West, Vice-chair, Ward 5; Brianne Goertzen, Ward 3; Jerry Sodomlak, Ward 1; Brian Olynik, Ward 4; Rod Giesbrecht, Ward 2; John Toews, Ward 2; Peter Kotyk, Ward 4. *Front row, from left:* Eva Prysizney, Ward 3; Colleen Carswell, Chair, Ward 1.

Colleen Carswell (Chair, Ward 1)

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SENIOR ADMINISTRATION TEAM



Back row, from left: Kelly Barkman, superintendent/CEO; Greg Daniels, assistant superintendent—human resources (instructional); Jason Drysdale, assistant superintendent—educational services and planning. *Front row, from left:* Vince Mariani, secretary-treasurer/CFO; Joan Trubyk, assistant superintendent—student services; Karen Boyd, assistant superintendent—educational programming





creating student success

River East Transcona School
Division Administration Offices

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creating student success