

creating student success

2016–17 ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY



A black and white portrait of an elderly woman with a gentle smile, wearing a quilted jacket, mounted on a red background.



...so special to
...see that an
...things just like
...beautiful artwork she
...quote of hers is "I
...ful." Lastly,
...an unforgettable Inuit



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 2016–17

Literacy

Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate literacy instruction.

Safe Schools

Enhance the climate, culture and inclusivity in all schools by implementing Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at all three tiers (universal, targeted and intensive).

Numeracy

Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate mathematics instruction.

Technology-Enabled Learning

Enhance student achievement through investments in educational technology as an integral and integrated teaching and learning resource.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

River East Transcona School Division is committed to *creating student success*. This annual report features stories that highlight student success along with our divisional priorities.

Each year, the senior administration team sets educational priorities. For the 2016–17 school year, our educational priorities included a focus on literacy, numeracy, technology-enabled learning and safe schools. We believe when students are in an environment where they feel safe, secure and valued, they can achieve their greatest potential. RETSD is a wonderful place to learn, grow and inspire confidence in our community's most valuable asset, our young people.

The board of trustees acts as our North Star, by setting board priorities and policies that reflect who and what RETSD is; establishing annual budgets that represent what's best for students, staff and taxpayers; and working closely with senior administrators.

From the administrators and teachers at our 42 schools, to support staff, senior administration and the board of trustees, together we work tirelessly to ensure student needs are not only being met, but their education and success is at the forefront of everything we do.

This annual report is our report card to the community, and as superintendent/CEO I'm proud of the work we have done, and will continue to do, to educate students to be inspired, skilled, responsible citizens.

Kelly Barkman,
Superintendent/CEO

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The 2016–17 school year was filled with stories of student success. As you read through some of those stories in this annual report, I'd like to highlight one that is of particular importance to the trustees. "Leading for Success... An Evening of Conversation" was a truly remarkable event with senior administration, principals, high school students and trustees, in attendance. We discussed what success looks like in our schools and how we as a school division can provide the resources to ensure success continues on in our classrooms. I invite you to read more about the evening on page 6.

As a board, we are often asked about our role as a trustee. What does a board of trustees do? Simply put, the board of trustees is the link between our community and River East Transcona School Division. We work hard to ensure all stakeholders benefit from education within our division by setting both board and divisional priorities. It is our responsibility to ensure the finances are in place to educate students and the budgets we set are kept within the limits of what taxpayers can afford. We work in collaboration with senior administration and implement and uphold the policies that shape our division. The board of trustees provides the governance so that our employees can do what they do best, educate our students.

We are proud of the work we accomplished in 2016–17 and are honoured to present you with this annual report.

Colleen Carswell,
Chair, Board of Trustees



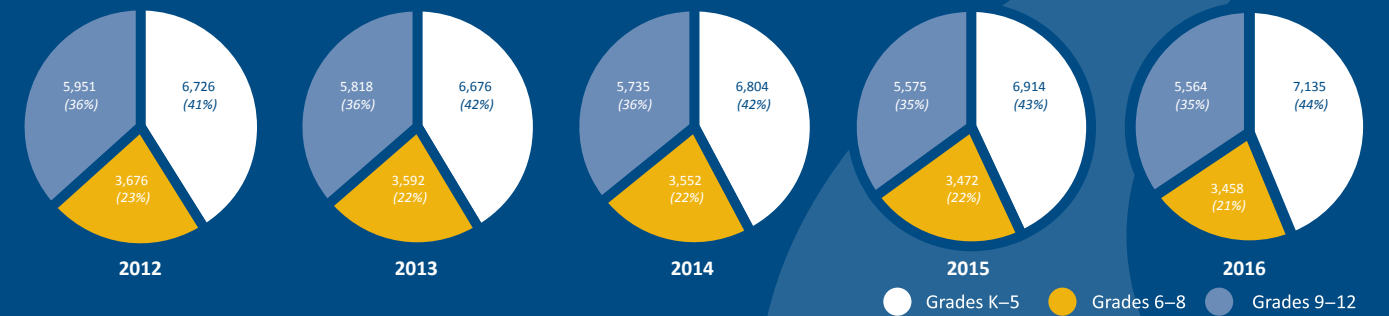
Student and Staff Statistics

GRADUATION 2017

Regular	909
Vocational	68
Dual Diploma	99
French Immersion	158
Mature Student	29
Special	9

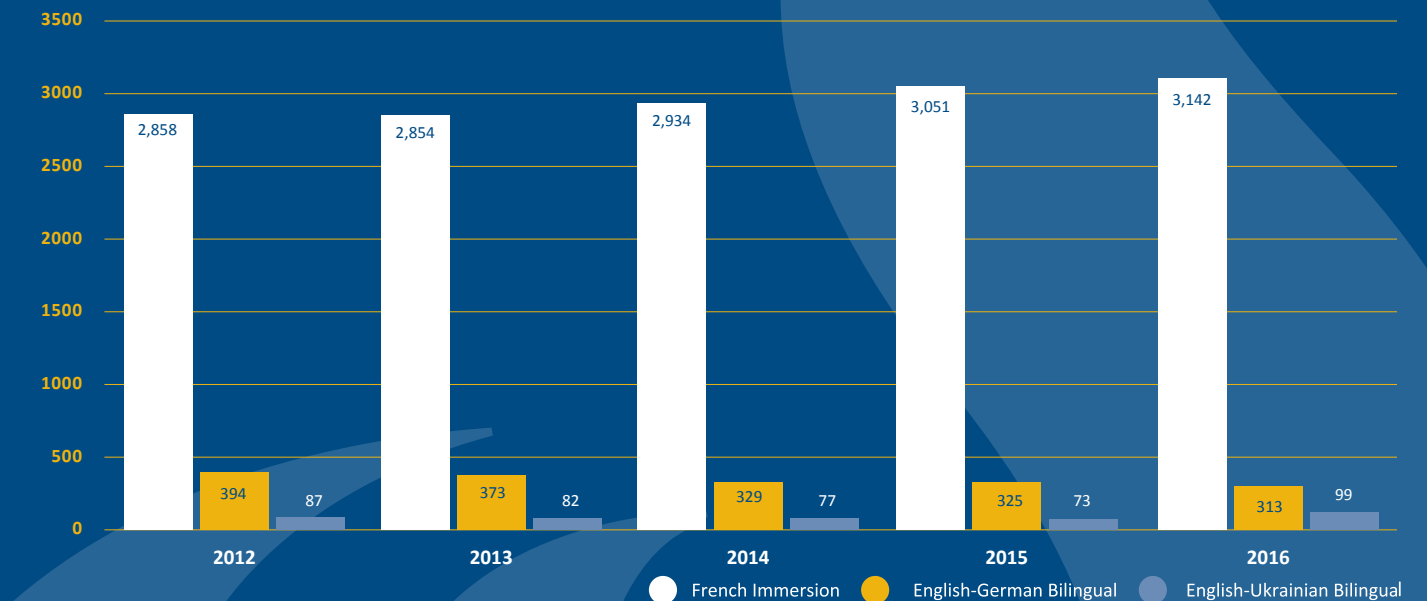
STUDENT ENROLMENT (SEPTEMBER 30)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS/PERCENTAGE OF DIVISION TOTAL

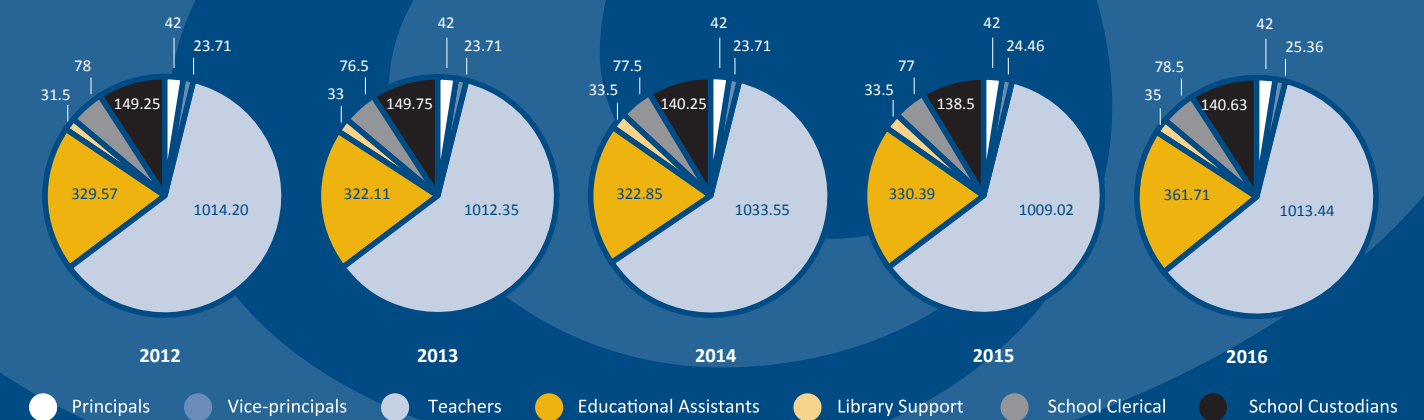


LANGUAGE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SEPTEMBER 30)

NUMBER OF STUDENTS



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





Supporting a rising star in broadcasting

Budding broadcaster Jordan Rogodzinski, who graduated from Miles Macdonell Collegiate in June 2017, made quite a splash in River East Transcona. Never one to let his cerebral palsy stop him from achieving his goals, Jordan hosted a YouTube series called Jordan 411, an interview show featuring local sports personalities. His inside-out knowledge of the world of sports and comfort in front of the camera made him seem like a seasoned interviewer, and among his guests were former Blue Bomber Milt Stegal, Bomber head coach Mike O'Shea, former Bomber Doug Brown, and Team Canada basketball player Martin Riley. He was featured on local media and he won a Yes I Can! Award from the Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children. Jordan was able to achieve his broadcasting goals with the strong support of some dedicated staff members who helped him prepare for his interviews, and a talented crew of student videographers from Miles Macdonell.



Bringing staff together to learn

River East Transcona students in all 42 schools in the division had the day off on October 7 while their teachers participated in a co-ordinated day of professional development. Scheduling all of these PD sessions for a single day was not only more time-efficient than having sessions on several days throughout the year, but it allowed a variety of groups with common goals (such as science or phys-ed teachers) to meet and gather information targeted to their needs. The staff members met at nine divisional locations and could choose from 36 different sessions with titles such as: Treaty Education K-8; Industrial Arts Mastercam; Foundations for Wellness in School; Global Issues Take Action; Implementing Coding; Supporting Students With Anxiety; and a variety of French-only sessions for the immersion and milieu staff. Our school staff live by the credo, "Never stop learning!"



Defining student success

RETSD's positioning statement is "creating student success" but what "success" is can be hard to define, given the broad range of academic and social needs among the division's 16,000-plus students. Superintendents, trustees, administrators and consultants made "student success" the focus of much discussion throughout 2016-17. During the division's five general administrator meetings and at some board meetings, discussions were held around coming to a common understanding of "student success." On May 1, they took their conversations a step further with an evening event attended by a group of students from the division's six high schools. Conversations covered what makes the students feel successful in school, what they think students need at school in order to be successful in life, and what the division is currently doing—and what more it could be doing—to support success.

Celebrating our Indigenous heritage

The heartbeat of the River East Transcona community was in Kildonan-East Collegiate on April 20. That night, the school’s gym was filled with the pounding rhythm of several drum circles as the division hosted its fifth divisional Powwow since its first in 2008. RETSD Powwows are lively, inclusive events that attract drummers and colourfully dressed traditional dancers from across the province, as well as students and others from throughout the division. Guests and participants enjoy a feast of stew and bannock and each other’s company before the dancing begins. Powwows are a way for the division to celebrate Indigenous culture, the community and another successful year of Aboriginal Academic Achievement (AAA) programming. AAA integrates Indigenous perspectives into learning for all students and aims to help Indigenous students achieve the highest possible success at school.



Honouring our veterans

More than 400 students paid tribute to veterans who lie in the Field of Honour at Transcona Cemetery as part of a national program called No Stone Left Alone. Grade 6 students from four schools in River East Transcona School Division, along with two other Manitoba schools, participated in the ceremony, held November 7, in partnership with the Transcona Branch Legion. Students were assigned a headstone during the ceremony and asked to offer a silent salute to their veteran in appreciation of their sacrifice. They then placed a poppy on the grave as an act of remembrance. This initiative, founded by the No Stone Left Alone Memorial Foundation, honours the sacrifice of Canadian men and women who lost their lives in the service of peace at home and abroad.



RIVER EAST TRANSCONA SCHOOL DIVISION



2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Expanding adult learning

River East Transcona has a new addition to its family of programs that support adult learners. With two successful adult learning centres already firmly established in RETSD, the adult education department ventured further afield and opened a new centre in downtown Winnipeg in September. Called Adult Learning on Lombard (ALOL), the centre was created in collaboration with Manitoba Education and Training, and the Manitoba Department of Families. ALOL offers the only full-time adult literacy program in Manitoba, and provides English, math and technology upgrading classes every weekday for up to 40 participants. This opportunity is very valuable and not only for the students themselves. It can inspire them to support their own families as they pursue an education, and it can better prepare them to find employment.



Welcoming service dogs

Students at two River East Transcona schools learned about the important role of service dogs in 2016–17, when Scottie and Coral were welcomed to Wayoata Elementary School and Bernie Wolfe Community School, respectively. These highly-trained canine companions assist in many of the routine activities that can pose challenges for the students they accompany. All of the staff and students at both schools were instructed in proper procedures regarding the dogs. They understand Scottie and Coral are working service dogs and not pets when they are at school. They are not to be touched or fed, or called by name. RETSD welcomes Scottie and Coral and is thankful for the work they do, comforting and looking after the safety of their student owners.

Creating a positive school environment

Educators from six Manitoba school divisions took part in a daylong event at Club Regent Event Centre February 10, organized by the dedicated staff in the Student Services Unit in River East Transcona. They were there to hear Dr. Tim Lewis, from the University of Missouri, speak about how to intensify supports in the classroom—especially for students who have behavioural challenges—to create an environment that encourages positive behaviours. Dr. Lewis is an expert in Positive Behaviour Intervention and Supports (PBIS), a schoolwide initiative that helps students improve their behaviour and academic performance while building a positive school culture. All RETSD schools make use of PBIS and have seen positive results, from a reduction in behavioural concerns to an increase in student engagement.



Exposing girls to occupations in skilled trades

More than 70 Grade 5 girls from River East Transcona had a chance for some hands-on exposure to the trades during an exciting event called Unlocking the Toolkit. Held November 4 at Bernie Wolfe Community School, the event brought the students together with women working in skilled trades, as well as in STEM occupations (science, technology, engineering and math) for a day of learning. It was organized in partnership with the Manitoba government. The skilled tradeswomen provided the girls with career information and supervised activities designed to introduce them to a variety of professions, such as masonry, plumbing, carpentry, electrical, engineering, and virtual-reality game development. These trades are both under-represented by women and in demand, so RETSD is doing its best to provide inspiration for its female students.

Empowering girls

Girls in Grades 6–12 from River East Transcona were given the opportunity to find their strengths, build their confidence and have a lot of fun in the process thanks to Empowerment Projects held by the division’s community initiatives department. The popular almost-monthly events were full of positivity and had themes such as “Dreams and Goals,” “Be The Revolution” and “Love Your Selfie.” The one-day workshops allowed participants to learn how to combat bullying, set goals, explore the media’s portrayal of women, develop new skills, discover more about themselves and honour the role models in their lives. And they did this all while having a great time with their friends and meeting new people in the process.



Social media connection

It’s been far easier for people to see all the great things happening in River East Transcona schools since the division launched its Facebook page and Twitter account. The division has been able to use this technology to better inform and reach out to parents, students, staff members and people from across Winnipeg and beyond. Among other things, RETSD has used it to share an interesting mix of student and staff successes, upcoming events, news stories, what’s happening in schools, reminders and important alerts. It’s a very cost-effective method for getting the word out and it has also given the division another way to connect with its community and see what matters to them most. RETSD’s social media following continued to grow in 2016–17 and the division looks forward to using this technology to create further bridges to the people it serves.

Tweet

Share

Follow

Like



Bringing their own devices

RETSD students are no strangers to using technology in their personal lives. In 2016–17, students in Grades 9–12 were allowed to begin using their own devices in the classroom, too. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) allows students, under their teachers’ direction, to use smartphones and iPads to extend and enhance their learning. Students who don’t have devices can use school-owned ones. There is also an expectation that teachers will not structure their classes in a way that relies on every student having a device. RETSD knows BOYD enhances students’ opportunities to access a global library of content, resources and experts; do real-time research; share ideas, opinions and arguments in creative ways; and personalize their learning to meet their unique needs.

RETSD School Board Medalists



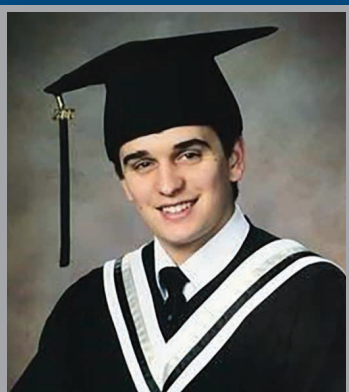
Hana Tedla
Kildonan-East Collegiate
GOLD MEDALIST



Kezia Balzer
River East Collegiate
SILVER MEDALIST



Teo Hoppe
Transcona Collegiate
SILVER MEDALIST



Devon Poiron
Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau
SILVER MEDALIST



Marianna Pozdirca
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
SILVER MEDALIST



Athira Rajitha
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
SILVER MEDALIST

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC MEDALISTS

Alexis Delaronde, Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Jaskaran Pandher, Kildonan-East Collegiate
Neve Loewen, River East Collegiate

Athira Rajitha, Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
Lily Huang, Transcona Collegiate
Devon Poiron, Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau

SKILLS MANITOBA COMPETITION GOLD MEDALISTS

Madlen Bowen
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
3D Character Computer Animation

Travis Schreibermaier
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
3D Character Computer Animation

Christiana Louise Masalunga
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Baking

Aurora Donaldson
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
Fashion Technology

Cory Gross
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
Precision Machining

Joshua Pessagno
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning

CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE PROVINCIAL WINNERS

Anna Nevoit
Chief Peguis Junior High
Core French, Grades 5 & 6

Andoni Ybanez
John Henderson Junior High School
Français, Grades 5 & 6

Madison White
Munroe Junior High School
Late Immersion, Grades 7 & 8

Anastasiya Ishchuk
Chief Peguis Junior High
Core French, Grades 7 & 8

Blaise Kikundule
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Core French, Grades 9 & 10

Gabriel Avendano
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Late Immersion, Grades 11 & 12

Gabriella Niemczyk
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Late Immersion, Grades 11 & 12

Mariia Nevoit
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Late Immersion, Grades 11 & 12

Ombeni Birinda
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Late Immersion, Grades 11 & 12

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS – OTHER STUDENT AND STAFF AWARDS

Philippe Chabot
École Regent Park School
Middle Years Award, Manitoba
Physical Education Teachers
Association

Beverley Ilchena
Donwood Elementary School,
Innovator Recognition Award,
Manitoba Physical Education Teachers
Association

Brian Hatherly
Bernie Wolfe Community School,
Builder Award, Manitoba Physical
Education Teachers Association

Denise Resrosiers
John W. Gunn Middle School
Outstanding Library Support Staff of
the Year, Manitoba School Library
Association

Madison Anderson, Trinity Johnson
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Verna J. Kirkness Science &
Engineering Program Award

Sarahi Cruz Salazar
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
International Student Award, Manitoba
Council for International Education

Stuart Campbell
River East Collegiate
Jim Foubister Memorial Award,
Winnipeg High School Football League

Diana Posthumus
River East Collegiate
Outstanding Administrator Award,
Manitoba Band Association

Quiana Kumar
River East Collegiate
Dennis Schrofel Award, Basketball
Manitoba

Mimosa Trieu
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate
Student Citizenship Award, Manitoba
School Boards Association

Carol Conan, (teacher, Kildonan-East
Collegiate), **Joanna Byrnes** (parent
volunteer, Angus McKay School), and
students **Layla Hunt** and **Jordyn White**
(Miles Macdonell Collegiate), **Jordan
Gates** (River East Collegiate), **Ashleigh
Klym** (Kildonan-East Collegiate),
Jordan Rogodzinski (Miles Macdonell
Collegiate), Yes I Can! Awards,
Manitoba Council for Exceptional
Children

Marcus Matheson
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Outstanding Take Action Project
Award, Manitoba Council for
International Co-operation

Anna Streu
River East Collegiate
McDonald's Leadership Award,
Manitoba High School Athletics
Association

**Darren Ilao, Jessica Chudy, Laura
Morin, Ceana McKee**
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Michael Smith Science Challenge,
University of British Columbia

2016–17 Budget Information

Before River East Transcona trustees pass any budget, they always consider the needs of RETSD students first, as they’re accountable for not just the cost, but the quality of education in our 42 schools.

The 2016–17 budget of \$182.7 million (up 3.9% from last year) was funded by the province (53%), provincial property tax credit (13%), local tax payers (33%) and other revenue sources (1%). School taxes increased by 4%, or approximately \$61 on a home valued at \$272,500. The mill rate was 12.9.

The \$3.9 million in new spending primarily covers increased payroll costs to meet collective agreement requirements. Payroll makes up 84% of the total budget. The new spending also includes three additional teachers and two specialist teachers to meet the 20K3 requirements, as well as support for a phonological literacy program.

RETSD’s per-pupil spending was an average of \$11,677, which was lower than the provincial average of \$13,016. Administrative costs accounted for 2.6% of the total budget, while the provincial cap was 4%.

The 2016–17 budget continued to support the division’s educational priorities in literacy, numeracy, technology-enabled learning and further developing safe, caring and inclusive schools. Other factors considered by the board when setting the budget were:

- Grade configurations and class compositions at all 42 schools
- Enrolment trends and projections
- The provincial 20K3 initiative, which requires schools to cap class sizes in kindergarten to Grade 3
- Specialized instructional staff levels (e.g., music, resource, counselling) and the number of students with special needs who require additional supports

YOUR LOONIE AT WORK



Vladimir Sazonov / Shutterstock.com

Salaries and Benefits: 87¢

- 58¢: Classroom instruction
- 9¢: 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 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 our students are our future.”

—Colleen Carswell, board chair



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Left to right: Michael West (vice-chair), Brianne Goertzen, Jerry Sodomlak, Eva Prysizney, Brian Olynik, Colleen Carswell (chair), Rod Giesbrecht, John Toews, Peter Kotyk

Colleen Carswell (Chair, Ward 1)

P: 204.222.1486
E: ccarswell@retsd.mb.ca

Jerry Sodomlak (Ward 1)

P: 204.999.1409
E: jsodomlak@retsd.mb.ca

John Toews (Ward 2)

P: 204.663.0475
E: jtoews@retsd.mb.ca

Rod Giesbrecht (Ward 2)

P: 204.661.5984
E: rgiesbrecht@retsd.mb.ca

Eva Prysizney (Ward 3)

P: 204.668.3501
E: eprysizney@retsd.mb.ca

Brianne Goertzen (Ward 3)

P: 204.955.6782
E: bgoertzen@retsd.mb.ca

Brian Olynik (Ward 4)

P: 204.661.6440
E: bolynik@retsd.mb.ca

Peter Kotyk (Ward 4)

P: 204.668.4181
E: pkotyky@retsd.mb.ca

Michael West (Vice-chair, Ward 5)

P: 204.990.3228
E: mwest@retsd.mb.ca



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

589 Roch St., Winnipeg, MB, R2K 2P7 | Tel: 204.667.7130 | Fax: 204.661.5618 www.retsdb.ca
For questions and comments, please contact the RETSD communications department. ©2017

This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.

