



## **ROD GIESBRECHT**

### **Ward 2 Trustee**

Rod Giesbrecht was first elected in the River East School Division in 1998, Rod continued to serve as a trustee, following amalgamation in 2002, in River East Transcona until 2010. He took a four-year break before being re-elected in 2014 and again in 2018.

His years of experience at the board table have helped reinforce his philosophy—that as elected officials, trustees help to make sure staff and students get the tools they need to be successful.

And with those tools and the right environment in which to use them, he says, educators can educate, support personnel can support, maintenance can maintain buildings, and transportation can run school buses. Trustees can then move on to ensuring the division is running efficiently and effectively in all

areas of operation, while being mindful of its responsibility to be fiscally accountable.

A man who wears many hats—he's a hospital orderly, a pastor and hospital chaplain at St. Boniface and Concordia hospitals—Rod has two other phrases he uses in his life that help guide his actions and decision-making. He says individuals and institutions should have the freedom to fail, and they should not aspire to greatness, but rather perspire to greatness.

He's proud of the work that has been accomplished in RETSD over the years, and knows there are times when difficult decisions must be made, such as realigning school boundaries and reconfiguring grades in schools. But, he says, those decisions are necessary if they will enhance the learning opportunities for students.

Rod was raised in the RETSD community, and attended Sherwood School, Morse Place School, and Kildonan-East Collegiate. He continued his education after high school, acquiring two master's degrees.

He and his wife Viola enjoy travel and being involved in projects—from education to health—in several countries. Rod has also officiated and coached basketball for many years both locally and overseas.

Rod is grateful for being granted the opportunity to contribute to his community. These are exciting days, he says, and we will overcome the many challenges that are before us.