

## Say Hello to Your New Superintendent, Sandra Herbst!



The River East Transcona School Division board of trustees is pleased to welcome Sandra Herbst as the division's new superintendent/CEO!

Though Sandra officially began on August 1, she's a familiar face in RETSD, having been a teacher, vice-principal, and assistant superintendent in Transcona-Springfield and RETSD. For the last 12 years, she's been a senior associate with Connect2Learning, a consulting firm helping educational professionals learn and design a more meaningful and powerful experience for colleagues and their students.

She's also an author who has written about today's educational approaches and learning environments.

"As a board, we are impressed with Sandra's vast experience working with provincial legislation and developing system policies, including a focus on maximizing strong governance structures," says Colleen Carswell, board vice-chair. "Now, as Sandra brings all her experience and knowledge to RETSD, we're delighted to welcome her and look forward to working together to create student success."

## A Message from Sandra

Several years ago, when my nephew was very young, our family bundled up to brave the cold January afternoon to go tobogganing. He had yet to experience this quintessential winter activity. As our family—my parents, my sister and brother-in-law, my nephew, and myself—walked through Bunn's Creek Centennial Park, we were negotiating who would first take him down the slide. Each of us thought that we were justified in that honour and, as a result, the conversation was animated. As we approached our destination, we came upon a family friend who, on his own, was taking his three children to the same toboggan run. When he saw all of us, he said, "Here comes Colin and his entourage."

These words have stuck with me for almost two decades, because I want *every* child to have an "entourage"—people who nurture their hopes, dreams, and aspirations. Parents, caregivers, guardians, and family members—you are your child's first teachers. Then later, we, as educators and divisional staff, round out that team. Working together, we create the environment that is worthy of our community's children and young people—our students—so they can face their future and not our past.

I am deeply grateful to the board of trustees for this opportunity to become a member of the incredible divisional team. For me, the work we do is personal. I have always lived in North Kildonan. I was a student at Maple

Leaf School, John Pritchard School, and River East Collegiate. My formal leadership roles began in the legacy Transcona-Springfield School Division. Our community of River East Transcona has sustained me—both personally and professionally.

So, as we begin the 2022–23 school year, I am certain that our students will engage in learning opportunities to help them to grow and develop, while facing some challenges along the way. However, I am equally certain that, *collectively*, we will surround them with the support and care to allow them to thrive. Thank you for welcoming me into this "entourage." There is good work ahead.

# School Board Medal Awards



**Rooj Ali**  
River East Collegiate  
**GOLD MEDALLIST**



**Charley McNeil**  
Murdoch MacKay Collegiate  
**GOLD MEDALLIST**



**Franchesca Alminana**  
Transcona Collegiate  
**SILVER MEDALLIST**



**Sofiyyah Oladipupo**  
Collège Mîles Macdonell Collegiate  
**SILVER MEDALLIST**



**Aiden Ordenez**  
Kildonan-East Collegiate  
**SILVER MEDALLIST**



**Benjamin Smith**  
Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau  
**SILVER MEDALLIST**

The RETSD board of trustees congratulates the winners of the 2022 School Board Medal Awards.

Every year, the trustees bestow six School Board Medal Awards on graduates who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, contributions to their school and community, and positive relationships with school staff.

Our six senior years schools each nominate a student and a subcommittee of the board

interviews the six students. One student is normally chosen as the Gold Medal Award recipient and five are Silver Medal Award winners.

The board opted to present Gold Medal Awards to two students this year due to the overall calibre of all the students who were nominated. When it came to the two Gold Medal Award recipients, there was no way to decide between their achievements, presentations, and contributions to their community.

“As part of the board subcommittee who interviewed all the medallists, we were very impressed by the way each of them was able to remain dedicated to academic excellence and to make a difference in the lives of those around them,” says Susan Olynik, RETSD trustee, Ward 4. “The board is confident our world will be a better place thanks to the compassion shown by these students during their school years, and to continue throughout their lives.”

## A Question of Concern and Confidentiality

Nothing is as important to parents—and to us—as student safety and well-being. That includes incidents that may require disciplinary action.

River East Transcona has established policies designed to ensure parents are kept informed of their child’s safety, while still abiding by provincial legislation that prohibits us from sharing personal information about students.

Sometimes, parents want to know what actions have been taken to discipline the offending student involved. It’s a natural question, but it’s one we can’t answer due to our commitment to follow Manitoba’s Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

In other words, we can’t legally share

information about another student, including any disciplinary actions that might be taken against them. We can only assure you that everyone involved will be held accountable according to our divisional Code of Conduct.

We understand that can be frustrating. So, if you want to raise a concern about disciplinary action—or ANY concern, for that matter—we have established a Concern Protocol with clear steps to help provide answers as best as we can under the law:

1. Talk to the person most directly involved—your child’s teacher. If you must leave a message, provide a day and evening phone number where the teacher can reach you.
2. If talking to the teacher doesn’t resolve the issue, talk to the principal.

3. If you’ve talked to the principal but the issue has not been resolved over a period of time, call the superintendent’s department at 204.667.7130 or email [info@retsd.mb.ca](mailto:info@retsd.mb.ca).

4. If you disagree with the decision of the superintendent’s department, you can make an appeal in writing to the board of trustees.

At each step, we only ask that if you aren’t satisfied you tell the person you are going to the next step and then speak to the next contact.

At the end of the day, the most important thing to know is that your child is safe, and we are taking steps to ensure they remain safe. Because a safe school helps make learning possible and helps create student success for all.



## Senior Years Student Awards

The board of trustees presents four annual awards, three of which are named after former long-serving trustees. These awards recognize different strengths and contributions of the winners. In each case, the student must have a good academic record and provide school and/or community references. The board also presents awards to our most improved students and would like to congratulate the winners of the Governor General's Academic Award. The board of trustees is pleased to announce the 2022 winners:

### The Mary Andree Humanitarian Award

This award is presented to graduating students who have shown selfless support of others in school and in the community and have helped improve the lives of others through organized activities or consistent, compassionate behaviour.

Meseret Hagos, Adult Learning Centre  
Benjamin Smith, Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau  
Kendall Crawford, Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate  
Phoenix Harder, Kildonan-East Collegiate  
Brooklyn Neves, Murdoch MacKay Collegiate  
Meaghan Rohleder, River East Collegiate  
Tammy Pham, Transcona Collegiate

### The Robert Fraser Leadership Award

This award is presented to a graduating student who has shown leadership in school-based organizations or activities and in the community, has shown self-reliance, and has helped launch new school activities.

Carlos Olivar, Adult Learning Centre  
Baylee Cesmystruk, Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau  
Nicolai Barlaan, Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate  
Madelyn Pana, Kildonan-East Collegiate  
Marija Kostic, Murdoch MacKay Collegiate  
Anna Gesell, River East Collegiate  
Halle Wirth, Transcona Collegiate

### The George Marshall Citizenship Award

This award is presented to a graduating student who has contributed to socially responsible activities in school and the community and whose school behaviour and attendance is exemplary.

Sandra Urbina Moreno, Adult Learning Centre  
Kadence Caruk, Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau  
Daniel Rodriguez, Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate  
Gurleen Kaur, Kildonan-East Collegiate  
Sarah Beatty, Murdoch MacKay Collegiate  
Sienna Cariati, River East Collegiate  
Mary Wedlake, Transcona Collegiate

### Most Improved Student Award

This award is presented to a graduating student who shows significant improvement in the graduating year compared to previous years in at least two of the following: academic performance, school attendance, general behaviour and co-operation with school expectations, and/or contributions to the school's extracurricular program.

Deng Jok, Adult Learning Centre  
Troy Takenaka, Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau  
Riley Strong, Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate  
Sochi Samuel, Kildonan-East Collegiate  
Taylor Skene, Murdoch MacKay Collegiate  
Jonny Maria, River East Collegiate  
Abigail Cochrane, Transcona Collegiate

### Governor General's Academic Award

The board extends its congratulations to the following winners of the Governor General's Academic Award:

Jordan Dust, Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau  
Kendra Grieger, Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate  
Alon Slonimsky, Kildonan-East Collegiate  
Alena Simpson, Murdoch MacKay Collegiate  
Madeline Penner, River East Collegiate  
Carolyn Wang, Transcona Collegiate

Grade 12 graduation is a major step in a person's life. Students moving from early to middle years and from middle years to senior years schools are also going through a big change. The trustees wish these students all the best as they move to the next stage of their school life in RETSD.



# Health Fundamentals

As we start the new school year, the health, safety, and well-being of students and staff remain a top priority. The province continues to recommend following these health fundamentals:

- Monitoring daily for signs of COVID-19 and staying at home when sick.
- Recommending self-isolation for five days if you test positive for COVID-19 or if you have

symptoms without testing and wearing a mask for 10 days after testing/symptoms.

- Following public health guidelines regarding mask use and ensuring individual choice is respected. While masks are no longer required to be worn in indoor public spaces, including schools, people may choose to wear a mask based on personal risk or preference. If your child chooses to wear a mask, they are

encouraged to bring their own.

- Encouraging proper and frequent hand washing.
- Practising respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes).
- Encouraging students and staff to be vaccinated (COVID-19 and routine immunizations) as soon as they are eligible.

## October is Election Season!



Education and community involvement go hand-in-hand, and there is no better way to get involved than participating in the school boards election on October 26, 2022!

Whether you're in the running or want to weigh in on who's representing the division's best interests on your behalf, every election is an opportunity to deliver messages on education issues that matter most to you.

So, how do you get involved in the election?

### 1. Run as a candidate!

Trustees help shape the policies and laws for a school division. That could be you! You can get information on nominations and the election process from the Manitoba School Board Association website ([mbschoolboards.ca](http://mbschoolboards.ca)), as well as information about running for school

trustee in our division on the Board of Trustees page at [retsd.mb.ca](http://retsd.mb.ca). The scope of work of a trustee is very diverse; plus, the dates and times of the meetings vary, so be sure to check these out before making your decision to run. Please note: there's a Candidate Information Session on September 13 and the nomination period is from September 14 to 20.

### 2. Vote!

Trustees are elected officials who represent the interests of their community. Voting for the trustee you feel best represents you, your values, and your priorities is how everyone in the community gets a say in learning.

Get more information on school board elections at [mbschoolboards.ca](http://mbschoolboards.ca)—and get out there and vote on October 26, 2022!

## Your River East Transcona School Division Trustees

### Ward 1

Colleen Carswell (vice-chair)  
204.222.1486  
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Jerry Sodomlak (chair)  
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### Ward 2

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### Ward 4

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### Ward 5

Currently Vacant

For more information about the board of trustees, visit: [www.retsd.mb.ca](http://www.retsd.mb.ca) > Your RETSD > Board of Trustees