

For immediate release

RETSD “Making the Move”

(Dec. 2, 2015) The final phase of River East Transcona School Division’s “Making the Move” plan, which will reconfigure schools in the Miles Macdonell Collegiate catchment area, takes effect in September 2016.

The plan will see Miles Macdonell become a Grade 9-12 school, while its feeder schools Munroe and John Henderson will become Grade 6-8 middle schools. Angus McKay, Lord Wolseley, Neil Campbell, Prince Edward and Polson will become early years schools with Kindergarten through Grade 5.

“This has been on the board’s radar since amalgamation. We’ve worked hard to create consistent grade groupings across the division,” says Colleen Carswell, chair of the board of trustees.

RETSD reconfigured Kildonan-East Collegiate’s catchment schools in 2006 and River East Collegiate’s catchment schools in 2014. Schools in Transcona were already grouped into early, middle and senior years prior to the amalgamation of River East and Transcona-Springfield school divisions in 2002.

Ms. Carswell says Miles Mac’s enrolment has dropped sufficiently to make it possible to accommodate Grade 9 students in the school. “Enrolment projections tell us we should stay at capacity or just slightly above capacity for the next several years, which is quite manageable,” she says.

Grade 6 French Immersion students will move from Neil Campbell and Salisbury Morse Place schools to John Henderson Junior High School. Students will be able to start the Late Entry French Immersion program at Munroe Junior High School in Grade 6 and Grade 7 in 2016.

Superintendent Kelly Barkman says the next few months will be busy as senior administrators and staff at the schools focus on the logistics of the moves. But, he pointed out, this is the third time in a decade a group of schools have been reconfigured so past experience will be helpful.

“We know the effort is worth it. Reconfiguring our schools creates environments that more closely match our students’ social, emotional and developmental stages. The educational opportunities can be presented in a more defined early, middle and senior years context.”

Mr. Barkman says the schools involved in the move are in the process of creating transition teams that will work to make the move as smooth as possible for students.

A Making the Move website has been created on the RETSD website to provide more information.

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