

## RETSD Board Passes 2020–21 Budget

(March 5, 2020) The River East Transcona School Division board of trustees approved a \$199.3-million budget on March 3.

“The board approved a budget that meets the needs of government, but not all students,” said Colleen Carswell, chair of the board. “Every time we create a budget, we keep two things in mind—how to provide the best education possible for our students, and how to balance that with what our taxpayers can afford to pay.”

Though the budget meets all budget cap directives set out by the government it prevented the board from enhancing current programs and services.

Carswell adds that the government directives throw the education system off balance.

“Between the tax limits imposed and caps on administration costs available to manage the second largest school division in the province, the board does everything within their power to lessen the effect on students in the classroom,” said Carswell.

River East Transcona is experiencing a lot of growth, which is exciting, but it creates challenges for the division, said Rod Giesbrecht, chair of the board’s finance committee.

“With many schools at or nearing capacity, and funding not keeping up with this demand, we’re expected to do more with less,” he said. “Nevertheless, we continue to maintain a high level of educational programming, while having the lowest per pupil spending in the city—something of which we’re proud.”

Based on the last available FRAME Budget Report, RETSD’s per pupil spending—\$11,788—continues to be the lowest in the Metro Winnipeg area. The provincial average is \$13,284 per student. If RETSD spent the provincial average of \$13,284 per student, the division would need to increase the overall budget by approximately \$24-million dollars.

### Fast facts:

- School taxes in River East Transcona will go down .89 per cent in 2020. This translates into approximately \$15 less on an average home valued at \$286,800.
- River East Transcona is the second-largest school division in the province with over 16,700 students in 42 schools staffed by approximately 3,000 team members.
- The division receives approximately 49.1 per cent of its revenue from provincial government program support, 11.9 per cent from the provincial government property tax credit, and 35.3 per cent from the local property tax base. The remaining 3.7 percent comes from other revenue sources.
- Salaries and benefits represent 87 per cent of the division’s total budget.

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*For additional information, please contact trustee Colleen Carswell, board chair, at 204.222.1486 or trustee Rod Giesbrecht, at 204.391.8225*