

## **RETSD Board meets and exceeds government directive in 2018–19 budget**

(March 8, 2018) The board of trustees attains government directive on 2 per cent special requirement and comes in well below the administration cost cap (3.0 per cent) set by the government at 2.7 per cent.

The board of trustees approved a \$193.6-million budget on March 6.

The budget meets all budget cap directives set out by the government while maintaining current programs and services. The budget includes the addition of 20 new full-time equivalent teaching positions to accommodate continued enrolment increases.

“We took a very responsible approach,” says Colleen Carswell, chair of the board. “The new limit on the special requirement by the government was a challenge, but I’m very pleased of the work we have done as a division to meet not only the special requirement of 2 per cent (based on the school year), but also come in well below the administration cost cap (3.0 per cent) at 2.7 per cent.”

“We’ve been resourceful and efficient, with a focus on maintaining current programs,” says Rod Giesbrecht, chair of the board's finance committee. What nudges the budget up every year, he says, are inflationary rises in the cost of utilities, supplies, services and collective agreement requirements. Salaries and benefits represent 87 per cent of the division’s total budget. Costs are going to go up, and most of our increase in spending is on payroll.

“We’re the second largest school division in the province,” says Colleen Carswell. “We have the lowest cost per pupil of any metro school division. Ours is \$11,759. The provincial average sits at \$13,187. I truly believe this shows how our board always balances fiscal responsibility with creating the best possible environment for student achievement and success. This budget didn't come without its challenges, but we made it work.”

As a result, school taxes in River East Transcona will go up 2.3 per cent in 2018. The increase translates into approximately \$38 more on an average house valued at \$277,900.

Fast facts:

- The division receives approximately 49.1 per cent of its revenue from provincial government program support, 12.3 per cent from the provincial government property tax credit, and another 34.6 per cent from the local property tax base. The remaining 4 per cent comes from other revenue sources.
- Based on the 2017–18 FRAME Budget Report, RETSD’s per pupil spending, \$11,759, continues to be the lowest in the Metro Winnipeg area. The provincial average is \$13,187.

-30-

*For additional information, please contact Vince Mariani, secretary-treasurer/CFO  
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