

River East Transcona purchases buses to meet needs during pandemic

(September 4, 2020) River East Transcona School Division has taken the step of purchasing seven new school buses, which will be equipped with radios and available the week of September 14. This will help the division transport students with the physical distancing that is currently required for their safety.

With the beginning of the school year just around the corner, parents shared concerns about transportation for their children. The RETSD board of trustees heard parents' concerns and made the decision to purchase these school buses as a long-term solution.

"The buses will serve us well during the pandemic and afterwards will help us meet the transportation needs of our growing school division," said trustee Brianne Goertzen, chair of the Finance, Facilities and Transportation Committee. "As well, the start of this school year has been challenging enough for both parents and schools without having the additional burden of worries about transportation. We understand this as parents ourselves."

The transportation routes have been shared with parents this week.

"There's no doubt that COVID-19 has created a lot of challenges for everyone this school year," says Kelly Barkman, superintendent/CEO. "But it's really inspiring to see how everyone is pulling together to make things work, from the board and senior administration team to our school staff and community. This is a real group effort."

River East Transcona has one of the largest transportation departments in Manitoba, operating 92 school buses and safely transporting an average of 4,200 students over 1.1 million kilometres per year.

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