MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT/CEO

This 2017–18 annual report to the community highlights just a few of the division’s many achievements, innovations, and collaborations.

We’re proud of our staff and students, and how they’ve worked together to accomplish personal goals, and make efforts that benefit their schools and the wider community. Collaboration is a thread that runs throughout this annual report—in the efforts of our staff to create and roll out the new Parent Portal, in the relationships between schools, in team victories, in the interactions between early and senior years students, and more.

These kinds of partnerships and team efforts take place throughout our division on a regular basis, and they underscore the value of being part of a community: students and staff can find ways to feel a part of their school family; schools must keep developing mutually beneficial relationships; and everyone should feel a part of the larger community of RETSD.

This is reflected in one of our division’s belief statements: “We believe in serving students and community.”

It’s my belief that, in educating and serving our students, we’re encouraging the type of teamwork and relationship building that will serve them and their communities over the long term, well after they’ve graduated.

I hope you enjoy the glimpse into our schools and classrooms that is provided in this annual report to the community.

Kelly Barkman
Superintendent/CEO

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The 2017–18 school year was filled with ways in which we collaborated to achieve student success in the division.

I’d like to highlight one of the stories in this annual report that shows collaboration and student success in action—our second “Leading for Success: An Evening of Conversation” event. Senior administration, principals, middle years students, and trustees were all in attendance. Discussion centred on the students and storyboards they created to help explain what they believe makes them successful in school, what doesn’t, and what direction they want to take in the future. It was a truly remarkable event. Anytime we get to spend time with students and staff, talking about education and student success, is indeed a highlight.

The collaboration the board engaged in over the past school year, and over their four-year term, is exemplary. You can see the evolution of their teamwork in the board priorities they set and in the division’s strategic plan. The board showed leadership in the planning and accomplishment of these priorities, working with government, educators, staff, parents, students, and the community. We do this so our students can get the best education possible, always keeping in mind the financial implications of our decision making.

We all benefit from a child’s education—they become teachers, doctors, and workers that contribute positively to society each and every day. We, as a community, have a role to undertake to make sure our children are educated to the best of their ability.

We are proud of the work we accomplished in our four-year term. We are honoured to present you with the 2017–18 annual report to the community.

Colleen Carswell
Chair, Board of Trustees

PURPOSE

River East Transcona School Division exists to educate students to be inspired, skilled, responsible citizens.

VISION

River East Transcona School Division will be forward-looking, innovative, and service-oriented, offering superior, comprehensive programming to meet the emerging needs of our students and community.

MISSION

To fulfill our purpose and in our journey toward our vision, River East Transcona School Division is committed to provide relevant, progressive educational programming and supportive services in a safe, stimulating learning environment.

DIVISIONAL PRIORITIES 2017–18

Literacy
Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate literacy instruction.

Safe Schools
Enhance the climate, culture and inclusivity in all schools through authentic and appropriate universal, targeted and intensive supports.

Numeracy
Enhance student achievement through authentic and appropriate mathematics instruction.

BOARD PRIORITIES 2017–18

Conduct a review of the Specialized Learning Environment (SLE) program.

Conduct a review of French immersion enrolment and related catchment areas west of Lagimodiere Boulevard, including Ward 5 (East St. Paul and St. Clements).

Conduct a catchment area review of French milieu schools east of Lagimodiere Boulevard.

2017–18 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

RIVER EAST TRANSCONA SCHOOL DIVISION

Colleen Carswell
Chair, Board of Trustees
Introducing our Parent Portal

For years, we’ve sent printed report cards home with students. As with so many aspects in our day-to-day life, there’s now an app for that! This year, we were excited to introduce, for all students, the Parent Portal—an online tool that provides quick, confidential access to their important school information.

Active parental involvement and support are key to a student’s academic and social success, and having online access to school information makes it easier than ever.

Students ‘Lead for Success’

River East Transcona prides itself on “creating student success,” so it makes sense that it was students the division turned to recently for their outlook on what that success means.

In May 2018, the division held its second “Leading for Success” event at John G. Stewart School. They invited middle years students from across RETSD to share their ideas on student success with trustees, senior administration, and principals. Last year, senior years students shared their thoughts.

Leading up to the event, the students had been invited to take photos illustrating success in their schools. Conversation included what makes the students feel successful in schools, what they think students need at school to be successful in life, what the division is currently doing to support this success, and what more could be done. It was a great evening of sharing.

Our Bus Drivers
drove 1,299,888 km last year!

That’s like driving from Winnipeg to the moon... more than three times!

We also used 89 buses to transport 3,845 students to 42 schools every school day.
Staff
Full-Time Equivalents
Sept. 2016
Grades K–5
7,135
Grades 6–8
3,458
Grades 9–12
5,564
TOTAL
16,152
Sept. 2017
7,370
3,558
5,532
16,460
Student Enrolment
June 2017
Regular
909
Vocational
68
Dual Diploma
99
French Immersion
158
Mature Students
29
Special Needs (Individualized)
9
June 2018
980
19
107
158
33
12
French Immersion
3,142
English-German Bilingual
313
English-Ukrainian Bilingual
99
TOTAL
16,152
Participation Language Program
Sept. 2016
French Immersion
3,142
English-German Bilingual
313
English-Ukrainian Bilingual
99
Sept. 2017
3,258
336
104
Principals & Vice-Principals
Sept. 2016
67.46
Sept. 2017
67.36
Teachers
Sept. 2016
1,009.02
Sept. 2017
1,013.44
Educational Assistants
Sept. 2016
310.39
Sept. 2017
361.71
Library Support
Sept. 2016
33.5
Sept. 2017
35
School Clerical
Sept. 2016
77
Sept. 2017
78.5
School Custodians
Sept. 2016
138.5
Sept. 2017
140.625
Mental health a focus for division, schools

On an evening in April 2018, hundreds of parents and caregivers gathered inside Bernie Wolfe Community School to learn more about how to deal with anxious behaviours in the children they care for. Practical strategies were shared by certified school clinician Gail Bryant, and positive behavioural interventions and supports teacher Lindsay Lawrence.

On the school front, Transcona Collegiate held its inaugural Mental Health and Wellness Fair in February 2018, giving students an opportunity to take part in activities that provide them with experiences or information to help them live a more balanced life. These included physical fitness (HIIT & yoga), woodworking, art therapy, Indigenous drumming, mindfulness, healthy stress, grief, technology, and the effects of substance use. As well, Craig Heisinger, senior vice-president of True North Sports and Entertainment, visited Transcona Collegiate during the fair to talk to staff and students about Project 11, a mental health awareness program created in memory of his late friend Rick Rypien.

Literacy project brings students together

Some Murdoch MacKay Collegiate students were on a mission one day in November 2017, as they made the short trip straight west to Wayoata Elementary School.

They visited to engage the younger children as part of a literacy project for their Grade 12 English class, led by teacher Julia Barton. The Murdoch students were paired up with Wayoata students and read stories to them they had written.

Ms. Barton created the project so her students could experience what it’s like to write for a target audience and then have that audience listen to the story and respond to it.

They had to plot out a theme for their story, create a storyboard and rough draft, edit it, and create their final written and illustrated copy.

She co-ordinated the activity with Wayoata teachers to ensure their students also benefit. They had the opportunity to ask the older students about their story ideas and writing techniques, and to make connections to their own creative processes.

It’s one of many examples of how RETSD schools at different age levels work together to everyone’s benefit.
REC on top in technology competitions

In May 2018, River East Collegiate won the 2018 Canadian Cyber Defense Challenge against 20 other Canadian high school teams and four university teams. Each team was made up of 4–5 students who spent the day combatting cyber attacks against a fictitious company.

In addition to showing off their technical skills working with different operating systems, the students had to summarize their findings and report to the fictitious company’s CEO to make recommendations to avoid future attacks.

River East Collegiate teams also placed first and third at the 2018 University of Manitoba computer programming competition that same month. It involved 35 teams from 16 different schools battling to solve six problems in three hours. REC’s winning team managed to solve all six problems to give the school its third championship in the 10-year history of the event.

Community band debuts

Matt Careless, band director at Robert Andrews School, struck up a community band in the RETSD area. The band had its first rehearsal in September 2017, at Robert Andrews and there was a great turnout. Several teachers from River East Transcona have come together to take part. The division hopes to see performances from this band in the future.
Rettetia Arnaud
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
3D Character Computer Animation
Maryse Chartier
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
3D Character Computer Animation
Carson Malinowski
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Precision Machining
Matthew Desory
Murdock MacKay Collegiate
Electrical Installation
Mitchell Epp
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
Dylan Kraynyk
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Fashion Technology
Nhat Anh Nguyen
Murdock MacKay Collegiate
* Also medaled in their categories at the Skills Canada competition in Edmonton

Connor Jones
Communication & Culture, Grade 4
Anna Nevoit
Communication & Culture, Duo, Grades 7 & 8
Anastasiya Ishchook
Communication & Culture, Duo, Grades 7 & 8
Isaiah Lanoriah
Late Immersion, Duo, Grades 7 & 8
Ethan de Brincat
Late Immersion, Duo, Grades 7 & 8
Andoni Ybanez
Français, Grades 7 & 8
Shubhneet Thind
Communication & Culture, Grades 9 & 10
Blaise Kikundule
Communication & Culture, Grades 11 & 12
Katie McKenzie
Communication & Culture, Advanced, Grades 11 & 12
Pedro Prouano
Early Immersion, Grades 11 & 12
* Won his category at the national finals in Ottawa

Madyson Richard
Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau
Joshua Chornick
River East Collegiate
Manjyot Kalkat
Transcona Collegiate
Gilbert Cormier
Bus Driver—Transportation Department Recognition—500,000 km Driven (Without an Accident)
Jason Drysdale
Assistant Superintendent
Honouring Our Allies
Aboriginal Circle of Educators
Tracy Romu
Teacher—Transcona Collegiate
U of M Students’ Teacher Recognition

Madyson Richard
Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau
Kassandra Dunn
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Dale Eckert
Murdock MacKay Collegiate
Carson Malinowski
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Mauli Patel
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Rosina Desbois
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Keighlynn Veilleux
River East Collegiate
Mosty Chornick
Transcona Collegiate

Madyson Richard
Collège Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau
Kassandra Dunn
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Dale Eckert
Murdock MacKay Collegiate
Carson Malinowski
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Mauli Patel
Kildonan-East Collegiate
Rosina Desbois
Miles Macdonell Collegiate
Keighlynn Veilleux
River East Collegiate
Mosty Chornick
Transcona Collegiate
2017–18 BUDGET INFORMATION

Before River East Transcona trustees pass any budget, they always consider the needs of RETSD students first, as they’re accountable for not just the cost, but the quality of education in our 42 schools.

To meet the needs of our classrooms, school taxes increased by 2.7%, or approximately $44 on a home valued at $273,300. New spending primarily covers increased payroll costs to meet collective agreement requirements. Payroll makes up 87% of the total budget. The budget maintained current programs, services, and staffing levels.

Where Funds Come From

Creating student success

Salaries and Benefits: 87¢
58¢: Classroom Instruction
11¢: School Counselling, Resource, and Library Services
7¢: School Administration
8¢: Facility Operations, Maintenance and Student Transportation
1¢: Other

Supplies and Services: 13¢
5¢: School Supplies and Materials
7¢: Facility Operations, Maintenance and Student Transportation
1¢: Other

Your Loonie at Work

Provincial Funding 48.6%
Local Taxpayers 34.6%
Provincial Property Tax Credit 13.4%
Other Revenue Sources 3.4%

Visit us at www.retsd.mb.ca to learn more about the RETSD board of trustees.

RETSD has the lowest per-pupil spending amount of the city’s six school divisions, while still maintaining a high level of educational programming and services.