

## **RETSD board approves \$4 increase on average house**

(March 13, 2019) The River East Transcona School Division board of trustees approved a \$196.6-million budget on March 12.

As a result, school taxes in River East Transcona will go up .25 per cent in 2019. The increase translates into approximately \$4 more on an average home valued at \$278,600.

“We have continued to demonstrate our fiscal responsibility,” said Colleen Carswell, chair of the board. “Ensuring our students have the programs and services they need to be successful while meeting the government directives was a challenge, but I’m very pleased of the work we’ve done.”

The budget meets all budget cap directives set out by the government while maintaining current programs and services. The 2019–20 budget also includes 17.5 new full-time equivalent teaching positions to accommodate continued enrolment increases.

“We have ensured the budget meets the needs of our growing student population,” said Brianne Goertzen, chair of the board's finance committee. “We have demonstrated resourcefulness in order to meet government directives and address increased costs associated with the provision of quality public education.”

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 that supports student success across the division.

Supporting quality learning means supporting the programs, services, and excellent staff, which comes at a cost, said Colleen Carswell. When it comes to per pupil spending, she explained, the reason RETSD comes in lower than anyone else is that the board looks for efficiencies year-round, not just at budget time. The division does more with less, offering programming and services to students that are in line with every other urban area school division.

Fast facts:

- River East Transcona is the second largest school division in the province with over 16,500 students in 42 schools staffed by approximately 3,000 team members.
- Salaries and benefits represent 87 per cent of the division’s total budget.
- The division receives approximately 49.3 per cent of its revenue from provincial government program support, 12.2 per cent from the provincial government property tax credit, and another 34.6 per cent from the local property tax base. The remaining 3.9 per cent comes from other revenue sources.
- Based on the 2018–19 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.

-30-

*For additional information, please contact Vince Mariani, secretary-treasurer/CFO at 204.667.7130 or trustee Colleen Carswell, board chair, at 204.222.1486*