April 24, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform you of the plan to reconfigure the boundaries of École Sun Valley School, École John Henderson Middle School, Bird's Hill School, Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton School, and Robert Andrews Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year.

As part of the divisional facilities review, the Board of Trustees has identified a need to review the boundaries due to increasing demand for French Immersion programming and overall enrollment growth in River East Transcona School Division. This growth is impacting École Sun Valley School and École John Henderson Middle School, both who are at or nearing capacity.

Accommodating the growth of French Immersion programming, which is expected to continue for some time, required a plan. After reviewing the catchment areas, it was evident that adjustments to the boundaries were necessary. The three schools north of the perimeter—Bird's Hill School, Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton School, and Robert Andrews Middle School—all have space within their facilities. We can accommodate K-8 French Immersion programming by changing boundaries at the early years schools and by making Bird's Hill School and Robert Andrews Middle School dual track French Immersion. More importantly, these changes will also bring students back to their community.

The plan will be to make Bird's Hill School a dual track K-5 school and Robert Andrews Middle School a dual track grades 6-8 school. Students who live north of the perimeter and currently attend French Immersion at either École Sun Valley School or École John Henderson Middle School will now complete their French Immersion K-8 program within their home community at one of the two schools. Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate will remain the senior years school for French Immersion students in the catchment.

In order to accommodate the French Immersion students at Bird's Hill School, the English program boundaries for K-5 students north of the perimeter will also be reconfigured. Some students who currently attend Bird's Hill School will move to Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton School based on these new boundaries.

All of these changes will go into effect in September 2025.

Maps showing the revised boundaries for each school are shown on the last page of this letter.

A virtual parent evening will be held on Wednesday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. for all families in impacted schools. This meeting will provide a broad overview of the rationale and the changes. Information on how to register for this session will be distributed prior to the meeting by the school. Once you have registered through the RETSD website, the link to access the meeting will be sent to you.

An in-person meeting will be held for each school in the first two weeks of May to answer specific questions for each school community. That date and time will be sent out by the school shortly.

Information about our plan will be updated following the meetings on both the divisional website www.retsd.mb.ca and your school website. If you have any questions prior to the meetings, please speak with your school principal or email communications@retsd.mb.ca.

The board will continue to keep parents informed as planning continues. We would like to thank you for your support and patience as these changes take place.

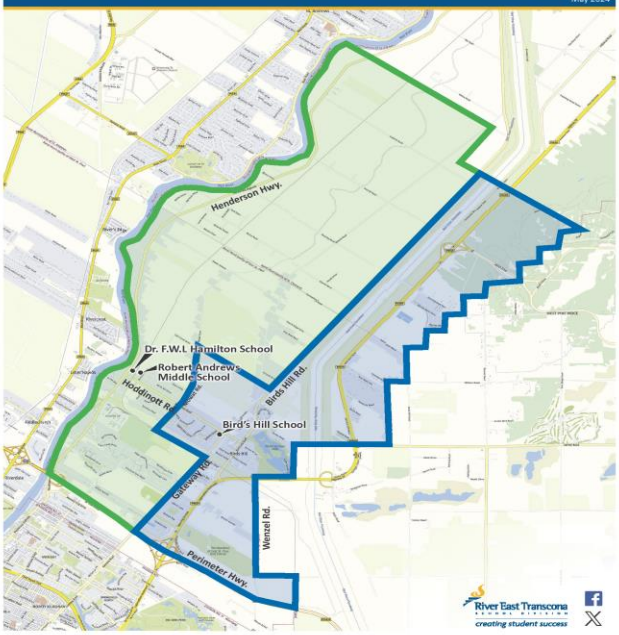
Sincerely,

Colleen Carswell
Chair, Board of Trustees

Sandra Herbst
Superintendent/CEO

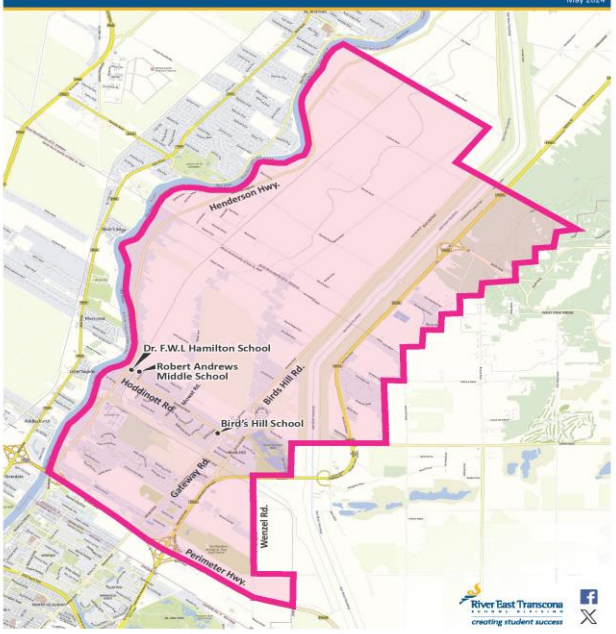
English Program Boundaries for Bird's Hill School and Dr. F.W.L. Hamilton School

May 2024



French Immersion Boundaries K-5 Bird's Hill School

May 2024



English and French Immersion Boundaries 6-8 Robert Andrews Middle School

May 2024

