

RETSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES 2024–25 BUDGET

For Immediate Release

March 12, 2024

WINNIPEG, MB — The River East Transcona School Division Board of Trustees approved a \$251.1 million budget for 2024–25 on March 11, 2024.

The board has listened to its community, which identified, through a variety of avenues, that they do not want reductions to current programs, programming, and services, but rather have clearly expressed their feedback requesting a strengthening of what already exists.

“The Board of Trustee’s job is to balance what taxpayers can afford and what is best for our students’ public education—the foundation of our community,” said Trustee Colleen Carswell, Board Chair. “That could not be accomplished with the previous government’s shortsighted 2% cap—nobody won and the only people who suffered were students and staff. The direction of this government allows us to return to our work of fiscal and educational responsibility.”

As a result, the Board of Trustees has approved a status quo budget, resulting in a property tax increase of 6.4 per cent or \$105.89 (before rebate) on the average home in our community assessed at \$330,200. The property tax increase maintains the division’s mill rate at the second lowest in the city of Winnipeg, moving it from 11.14 to 11.815—still not at its 2018 level of 13.436.

A status quo budget maintains current levels of programs, programming, and services for students and staff based on an estimated increase in student enrolment for the 2024–25 school year. This budget also includes increases in fixed costs (e.g., insurance, utilities, statutory benefits).

“RETSD will continue to be placed in financial precarity as a result of the existing inequitable funding formula; the only sustainable and fair way forward is a new equitable funding formula,” said Brienne Goertzen, Chair of Finance, Facilities, Transportation, and Technology Committee. “We will continue to advocate for our entire educational community for a model that properly funds quality public education.”

Fast facts:

River East Transcona is the second largest school division in the province with over 18,604 students in 42 schools staffed by over 3,500 team members. The school division is expecting at least 500 new students to enrol in September 2024.

The division receives approximately 46.6 per cent of its revenue from provincial government program support, 5.6 per cent from the provincial government property tax credit, and another 47.3 per cent from the local property tax base. The remaining 0.5 per cent comes from other revenue sources.

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