



Expanding Access to Full-Day Kindergarten

The Board of Trustees recognizes the important role early learning plays in setting students up for success and understands that many families value access to full-day every-day kindergarten.

While provincial funding currently supports kindergarten programming at half-time, the Board continues to make steady progress toward expanding full-day, every-day opportunities within the division's existing budget.

"As Trustees, we recognize the benefits of early childhood learning, and we're committed to expanding access to full-day, every-day kindergarten," said Board Chair Colleen Carswell. "Because the government only funds kindergarten for half days, we carefully review our budget each year to determine how we can continue to move this work forward."

At present, full-day every-day kindergarten is being offered at

eight RETSD early years schools: École Salisbury Morse Place School, Westview, Hampstead, Polson, Bertrun E. Glavin, Sherwood, Lord Wolseley, and John Pritchard schools.

Across the division, whether programming is full-day every-other-day or full-day every-day, kindergarten students benefit from engaging, play-based learning experiences that build foundational literacy, numeracy, and social skills,

helping them make a confident transition to grade one.

The Board of Trustees continues to advocate for funding from the provincial government that would make full-day every-day kindergarten available to more families in RETSD.

Advanced Placement and Technical Vocational Available in all SY Schools



Providing students with meaningful opportunities to explore their interests, challenge themselves, and prepare for their future is an important priority for the Board of Trustees.

As part of the division’s commitment to continuous improvement, RETSD has expanded access to both Advanced Placement (AP) and Technical Vocational programming so that students

across all six senior years schools can benefit from these valuable learning opportunities.

Today, AP courses are offered at every RETSD high school. AP courses provide students with the opportunity to engage in university-level learning while in high school, helping them deepen their knowledge in areas of interest and prepare for future studies. While AP courses are offered at the Grade 12 level, many schools also provide preparatory AP courses in Grade 11.

Students across the division also have access to RETSD’s intensive technical vocational programs which are delivered at Murdoch MacKay Collegiate and Kildonan-East Collegiate. Students remain enrolled in their catchment school while attending one of the vocational schools for specialized programming during one semester in grade 11 and one semester in grade 12.

They continue to participate in athletics, extracurricular activities, and graduation at their home school while working toward a technical vocational diploma.

“Offering AP programming at all six senior years schools allows all students the opportunity to benefit while staying in their local communities,” said Trustee Brenda Bage. “The intensive vocational model also allows students to gain valuable hands-on skills and career-focused training while continuing to learn and graduate alongside their peers at their home school.”

RETSD currently offers 14 different technical vocational programs designed to help students explore career pathways, develop industry-specific skills, and prepare for employment, certification opportunities, apprenticeships, or further education after graduation.

STEAM Learning Opportunities Expanded Across RETSD

Helping students explore, create, innovate, and solve real-world problems is an important part of preparing them for success beyond school.

In recent years, RETSD has expanded access to STEAM programming so that students in all six senior years schools can benefit from this engaging and innovative approach to learning. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, English Language Arts, Arts, and Mathematics. Students follow the same provincial curriculum as their peers while learning through collaborative, project-based, and inquiry-driven experiences that connect subjects in meaningful ways.

RETSD first introduced the STEAM Lab program at Murdoch MacKay Collegiate in 2018, then expanded it to Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate in 2020. By the fall of 2025, all senior years schools in the division offered students at least one grade 10 semester in a STEAM Lab program, significantly increasing access for students across the division.

“Our Board is committed to providing engaging learning opportunities that reflect the interests, strengths, and future goals of students,” said Trustee Keith Morrison. “STEAM programming continues to be highly sought after because it encourages creativity, problem-solving,

collaboration, and innovation.”

Through the grade 10 STEAM Labs, students earn credits in English Language Arts, Science, and Art, while working in an extended three-period block each day for one semester. Students use the design thinking process, develop project management skills, and demonstrate their learning through hands-on projects and presentations. They also have opportunities to use emerging technologies and build global competencies that support success in school, careers, and life.

Connections with industry professionals through guest speakers and site visits help

students see how classroom learning relates to future education and career pathways. French Immersion students can also participate in STEAM programming, while fulfilling all grade 10 French Immersion requirements. Like their English program counterparts, students earn credits in Science de la nature, Français, and Arts visuels.

“We have worked to ensure that students in every senior years school have access to STEAM programming,” said Trustee Sheri Irwin. “Expanding these opportunities allows more students to experience this innovative approach to learning and develop skills that will serve them well in the future.”



Building Stronger Connections with Families and the Community

Strong schools are built on strong partnerships. That is why the Board of Trustees continues to create new opportunities for families, caregivers, and community members to stay informed, share their perspectives, and engage in conversations about public education in RETSD.

In response to significant enrolment growth across the division, the River East Transcona Connection Council was established to provide an opportunity for representatives from school parent councils to meet throughout the school year with members of the Board of Trustees

and Superintendent’s Department.

“Having parents and guardians sit down with us regularly is important for Trustees and senior administration,” said Board Vice-Chair Susan Olynik. “The Connection Council provides an opportunity for meaningful dialogue on topics that matter to students, families, and schools. It also allows the Board and administration to share information about divisional priorities and gather valuable feedback from the community.”

Over the past four years, RETSD has also hosted in-person and

online Parent Forums that bring together families, staff, students, and community representatives for discussion and learning. The forums included presentations on student success and well-being, panel discussions featuring a variety of perspectives, and small-group conversations where participants could share ideas and provide input on important issues facing schools today.

In addition, RETSD continues to improve how information is shared with families. News about educational priorities, events, and more in the division and our schools

can be accessed on our websites or, more conveniently for families and the community, via the RETSD app. Downloading the free app from the Apple Store or Google Play and enabling notifications ensures that you can get all the information you need in a timely way, including real-time updates straight to your phone, tablet, or smartwatch.

By creating more opportunities for engagement and improving access to information, the Board is strengthening its connection with families and community members while supporting a shared commitment to student success.

Strengthening Student Supports Across RETSD

Supporting the diverse learning, social, emotional, and communication needs of students continues to be a priority for the Board of Trustees.

Every school in RETSD is assigned divisional student services staff to work alongside school staff to help ensure that students have access to the supports they need to succeed. To further strengthen

these services, the division has expanded its divisional student services team for the 2026—2027 school year. This investment includes the addition of two school psychologists, a speech-language pathologist, a school social worker, an occupational therapist, and a reading clinician to the current divisional clinical team, helping to improve access to specialized

supports and reduce waitlists for students across the division. While these professionals play an important role in supporting students, they also collaborate closely with teachers, school staff, and families to help create positive and inclusive learning environments.

“Schools are expected to do more today than ever before, and it

is important that we continue investing in the staff and resources that help students succeed,” said Trustee Shannon Hiebert. “By increasing access to clinical supports, we are helping ensure students receive the assistance they need to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.”



Planning for Growing Communities and Future Schools

As RETSD communities continue to grow, the Board of Trustees is focused on ensuring students have access to safe, welcoming, and modern learning spaces close to home.

A significant milestone is on the horizon with the opening of the new school in the Devonshire area, scheduled for fall 2027. For many families, the new school will mean students can attend school in their own neighbourhood, strengthening local connections and reducing the need for transportation to schools outside their community.

“Our Board is pleased that the Government of Manitoba recognized the need for this new school—the first new school in Transcona since 1990,” said Trustee Sheri Hanson. “But the Board of Trustees won’t stop with this school. They have been advocating for over a decade for new schools with the knowledge that several new developments are being planned across the division.”

The Board’s work and advocacy also extend beyond new school construction to capital projects that are funded at the discretion of the provincial government.

Each year, Trustees identify and prioritize work that supports student learning and well-being through capital requests to the province. These projects include the need for creating additional classroom spaces, improving building systems, upgrading roofs, enhancing ventilation, and undertaking other important facility improvements.

“Government needs to prioritize and invest in the capital projects school divisions bring forward,” said Trustee Brianne Goertzen. “As costs continue to rise, delaying necessary repairs only increases

the financial burden on taxpayers and school communities. Timely provincial investment is essential to maintaining safe, effective learning environments and protecting public assets for future generations.”

While the new Devonshire school marks an important step forward, it is only one part of the Board’s long-term vision for supporting communities across RETSD. Through ongoing advocacy for new schools and capital improvements, Trustees are working to ensure students have the learning spaces they need to thrive.

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The Board of Trustees meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. You are welcome to attend, either in person or online. For more information about the Board of Trustees, visit: www.retsd.mb.ca > Your RETSD > Board of Trustees