



April 2019

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians of Western School Division,

Do you value having decisions for education made in Morden? Local governance has allowed Western School Division to implement programs and initiatives that meet the specific needs of our schools and students. Examples of these programs and initiatives determined by your locally elected School Board include:

- **French Immersion Programming**
- **Welding, Piping and other RRTVA programs**
- **International Education Program**
- **PBL or Project – Based Learning** (learning core skills by solving real life problems)
- **Recent decision to provide air-conditioning** in all schools.
- **Diversity Initiative** – supporting the concept that every person should be loved and accepted for who they are.
- **Teen Learning Centre** – Offsite classroom for kids who don't fit into a regular school program
- **Morden Adult Education Centre**
- **Home School Liaisons**
- **SWIS Workers – Settlement Workers in Schools**
- **Partners in Practice** – a teacher development program for our teachers where they can visit other good teachers classrooms in Manitoba to improve the instruction in their own classroom.
- **Instructional Support Coach** – a master teacher who works with every new teacher in Western School Division to help them ensure strong learning is happening in their classroom.
- **Literacy, Numeracy and French Coaches**
- **Innovation Grants** – Seed money for innovative and creative ideas for projects that will improve the school system. Open to all students, staff and residents of WSD each year.
- **Student Leadership Forum** – A day long session each spring where students tell Trustees what is working and what needs to change in our schools. The Board uses this information for planning and direction.
- **Debate Club at MCI**
- **Hockey Skills Academy**
- **Equity/Cost to Parents** – a policy which sees us bulk buy school supplies for students.
- **Technology in classrooms** – the Board has supported a 1:3 IPAD/laptop to student ratio in Early Years and a 1:2 Laptop to student ratio in Middle Years classrooms.
- **Board Support for Student Success** – The Board financially supports student achievement at Provincial and National level competition for the arts, sports and debate teams/clubs.

In January 2019, the provincial government launched a review of Manitoba's K-12 education system. Two matters which may be under consideration in this review are the large-scale amalgamation of the current 37 elected school boards in our province and a possible move to appointed, rather than elected, school boards. These changes would severely undermine Western School Division's ability to shape and influence our local schools. The first would create overly-large administrative units (possibly not in our current division) and the second would eliminate the right of our community to

Board of Trustees: [Brian Fransen](#), [David Guenther](#), [Barb Petkau](#), [Robyn Wiebe](#), [Darcy Wolfe](#)

STEPHEN ROSS
Superintendent/CEO

CARL PEDERSEN
Secretary/Treasurer

CYNDY KUTZNER
Assistant Superintendent

ALLAN TOEWS
Operations



choose its own trustees to govern our school system. Having a local board determine the mission and core values of WSD schools and having the ability to set a budget that reflects our community’s priorities, is a privilege we should not take for granted. WSD elects people from our community, people we know and trust, to guide and shape the values and directions of our local schools.

We encourage you to voice your opinion(s) regarding these possible changes. Your input will help shape education as well as your local school and community needs. You can use your voice in the following ways:

- Contact Your MLA- https://gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/mla_list_constituency.html
- Attend a Workshop on the Education Review: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html>
- Send a written submission to the Education Review:
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/submissions.html>
- Complete an online survey for the Education Review: <https://forms.gov.mb.ca/education-review-public/>

Please visit the Western School Division website (www.westernsd.mb.ca) for future updates and links.

Brian Fransen
Board Chair

Board of Trustees: Brian Fransen, David Guenther, Barb Petkau, Robyn Wiebe, Darcy Wolfe

STEPHEN ROSS
Superintendent /CEO

CARL PEDERSEN
Secretary/Treasurer

CYNDY KUTZNER
Assistant Superintendent

ALLAN TOEWS
Operations