



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division passes budget for 2019/2020

March 11, 2019 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Board of Trustees has approved a final budget for the 2019/2020 school year. In compliance with a directive from the Minister of Education, the Board has approved a two percent increase to the special requirement resulting in a 2.45 percent, or \$35 a year, increase on property taxes for taxpayers within WSD boundaries. This is based on the average assessed value of \$214,200 on a home in WSD.

The final budget approved by the Board of Trustees includes expenditures of \$417,444,400 for the fiscal period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

“The Province advised school boards on March 1 that it is further reducing the cap on Administration Costs for large urban school divisions to 2.7 percent of total expenditures, effective July 1,” said Chris Broughton, Chair, WSD Board of Trustees. He adds the Province has pledged to penalize school divisions by an additional 11 percent cut to Administration Costs for every percentage point that is over the two percent special requirement cap they have imposed.

“The Province came out with this mandate, fully aware that school boards have already completed their community consultations on draft budgets, essentially making feedback on proposed additions moot,” said Broughton.

“In this year’s budget, there will be no additions to address the accessibility and accountability needs identified and discussed with our constituents,” said Broughton. “For 2019/2020, we are able to continue to offer programs that are fully funded by WSD tax payers, however, we are now in a position where we must prepare our school communities with the reality that some of these programs will be negatively impacted as soon as 2020/21 because of revenue restrictions being placed on school divisions by the Province.”

WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 78 schools, 33,000 students and 6,000 employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student’s potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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