



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division's Final Budget reflects educational priorities, guiding principles

This evening, The Board of Trustees of The Winnipeg School Division passed the Final 2014/2015 Budget. Trustees would like to take the opportunity to thank the schools, parents, residents and community stakeholders for meeting with trustees over the past couple of months to discuss the 2014/2015 Draft Budget.

“It is important to have meaningful dialogue with our communities to ensure that there is consensus amongst our stakeholders to continue to support the educational requirements of our students,” said Board Chair Suzanne Hrynyk.

In February, the Board of Trustees of The Winnipeg School Division consulted with stakeholders regarding the 2014/2015 Budget in the amount of approximately \$374 million. This amount represents an increase of approximately \$8 million over the current year's budget. The Board of Trustees also identified areas of savings which were achieved through reduced project payment costs, interest requirements, instructional material and the elimination of supports for one program for adults.

In finalizing the 2014/2015 Budget, the trustees noted that the majority of feedback received on the Draft Budget from parent councils, Board Advisory Committees, online surveys and a public meeting supported an increase in taxes of 3.6% to continue the programs and services presently offered in the Division.

While the Board felt it was necessary to continue supporting improvements to programs and services for students, trustees were mindful that many homeowners in the Division may be faced with increases in property taxation due to reassessment.

Rather than increase expenditures in the Division's Budget, thereby requiring additional revenues from property taxation, the trustees agreed to utilize reserve funds in order to: provide a pilot in four schools for a full-time Kindergarten program; enrich student learning through Wi-Fi Technology Improvements in high schools; and improve student safety by installing additional security systems in schools.

In addition, schools will have the opportunity access more Math Resources and additional supports for Science Labs through budget reallocations. These improvements will not require additional support from taxpayers; therefore the property tax increase will remain at 3.6% which is sufficient to balance the budget.

“I am proud of the work we did in the Finance/Personnel Committee to debate and pass a responsible budget plan that reflects our Education Priorities and Guiding Principles,” said Cathy Collins, Trustee and Chair of the Finance/Personnel Committee. “The 2014/2015 Budget takes the balanced and responsible approach to tackling our fiscal and economic challenges that the vast majority of our families support.”

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The final budget approved by the Board of Trustees results in estimated expenditures of \$374,041,400 for the fiscal period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The projected increase in total education property taxes will be 3.6% or approximately \$40 for 2014 on the average house in the Division. An average house in the Winnipeg School Division is one with a market value assessment of \$171,130.

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For more information, contact:

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