



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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NEWS RELEASE

WSD Board of Trustees asks Minister Goertzen to make public apology

March 15, 2019 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Board of Trustees is requesting an apology to its Chief Superintendent/CEO from Minister of Education and Training, Kelvin Goertzen, for comments he made during the March 14 question period in the Manitoba Legislature.

Matt Wiebe, MLA for Concordia, was quoting a WSD teacher who was concerned about the closing down of the Manitoba Curriculum Support Centre. The Minister's response was to state that "what WSD teachers should really be concerned about is how much their superintendent is making (salary)."

"This was an uncalled-for personal attack on a public civil servant who cannot speak in their own defense," says Chris Broughton, Chair, Board of Trustees, Winnipeg School Division. "The Minister is trying to divert attention from the cuts he is making in education by singling out one superintendent among dozens in the province as a scapegoat to blame for all the problems in the school system."

Broughton says the Board of Trustees has written to the Speaker of the House, requesting an apology from Minister Goertzen in the next question period. He notes that the Minister is required to work with school division administrators with similar salaries, and maintaining a respectful working relationship should be a priority for him.

"As a Board, we fully support our Chief Superintendent and her compensation is reflective of her education and experience, particularly her unique experience working with inner city students and schools," says Broughton. "Our students, parents and staff are extremely fortunate to have such a skilled and compassionate leader."

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