



NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division passes budget for 2016/2017

March 14, 2016 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Board of Trustees has approved a final budget for the 2016/2017 school year. Taxpayers within WSD boundaries will see an average 5.89 percent increase, or \$74 a year, on their property taxes based on an average residential home valued at \$203,900.

“The Board set a goal to improve student success and align resources with the needs of our school community,” said WSD Board Chair Mark Wasyliw. “We had to contend with provincial funding at a percentage point less than the rate of inflation and a considerable decrease in the property tax base due to City of Winnipeg commercial reassessments.” Wasyliw says the final budget protects programs that respond to community need in early years education, math and services to improve graduation rates.

“In light of an inadequate funding model that doesn’t lend itself to stable and predictable funding, we had our work cut out for us with this budget,” said Wasyliw.

Improving student success:

- Enhanced literacy program pilot in high needs schools.
- Enrichment learning opportunities across the division with support for the Inner City Science Centre.
- Two additional full-day Kindergarten classes for a total of 11 in WSD.
- Support for the student success initiative at Elmwood High School to improve student engagement and graduation rates.
- Adding three new bilingual language programs (Cree, Ojibwe and Spanish).
- Investing in the division’s mental health strategy (Healthy Minds).

“We consulted with the community on a draft budget that had very few additions but would maintain existing programs and services, in order to ease the residential tax burden,” said WSD Finance Committee Chair Chris Broughton. “To defer a larger increase and focusing on the need for quality education in the face of declining provincial investment, we have applied \$587,800 from reserve.”

The final budget approved by the Board of Trustees includes expenditures of \$396,036,400 for the fiscal period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Instructional expenditures account for 81 percent of the total budget.

"This budget is a true collaboration of the community, trustees and administration," said Broughton. "I commend their commitment to the education and support needs of the students served by Winnipeg School Division."

-30-

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