



NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division to offer courtesy transportation for 2017/2018

October 2, 2017 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Board of Trustees has passed a motion to revise the transportation policy to include provisions for courtesy transportation services. Courtesy transportation will begin to be offered by November to those applicants who meet specified criteria. As with most school jurisdictions, the number of students who are eligible for transportation varies from year to year and it takes a period of time in the Fall to stabilize the exact number of routes and empty seats that are available on our busses.

“The WSD transportation policy meets all of the provincial regulatory requirements to ensure that students who live further than 1.6 km, who have exceptional learning needs or who live in hazard areas are accommodated,” said Sherri Rollins, Chair, WSD Board of Trustees. Rollins notes that the policy is very generous in providing transportation at no charge to Kindergarten to Grade 6 language and alternative program students, and for Nursery students attending French immersion milieu schools.

“Our transportation policy change regarding fee for service in March, however, has caused undue hardship for some of our constituents and as a Board, we wanted to do what was reasonable, and without any added cost to our stakeholders, to help in these situations.”

Among the provisions is a mandate that no new bus routes or stops be added to accommodate courtesy seating. Courtesy transportation seats are not guaranteed for the full school year as students who move into the division or onto a new bus route, who meet full eligibility requirements, will have precedence over a courtesy seat assignment.

The Board has also directed WSD administration to conduct a larger study on fee for service and courtesy transportation and make a recommendation for possible implementation in the 2018/2019 school year.

A communication detailing the application process and criteria is being developed and will be sent to all parents in WSD through their child’s school in the coming weeks.

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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