NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division Board of Trustees votes to settle with Winnipeg Teachers' Association

May 20, 2021 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division Board of Trustees has voted in favor of settling a four-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Winnipeg Teachers Association (WTA). The award retroactively increases salaries between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2020 — a 1.6 percent increase for 2018, 1.4 percent for 2019 and a raise of 0.5 percent for the current 2020 school year. The final year of the four-year agreement will see a cost of living adjustment increase.

"Our hand has been forced by the Provincial government in how we've come to budgets for the past three years," said Betty Edel, Chair, Board of Trustees of the Winnipeg School Division. "We have had no opportunity to raise the revenue that is required to settle with our teachers beyond what has been proscribed by the government." Edel points at the many reductions made in the WSD budget over the past two years, including a 15 percent reduction in senior management and the loss of almost five million dollars in unique programming in the most recent budget.

"We want to have a fair and equitable settlement with our teachers, they absolutely deserve it," said Edel. "Unfortunately, this agreement means reducing the baseline number of WSD teaching positions which will have an impact on student learning." Edel says the cost of matching other school division settlements will result in a reduction of 110 to 120 WSD teaching positions, based on April 2021 year over year consumer price index.

WSD has 79 schools, 32,752 students and 4,587 full-time 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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