



THE WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
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BETTY EDEL
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

April 16, 2021

Dear Parents

As you are aware, the Province of Manitoba has introduced Bill 64, The Modernization Education Act to improve student outcomes, under four pillars of governance and accountability, high quality learning outcomes, future ready students and excellence in teaching and leadership.

While the Winnipeg School Division shares many of the same views on the key priority actions recommended by the province to improve student outcomes, the actions must be connected to what will benefit the unique needs of supporting our school communities.

It is disappointing that the Provincial Government has stated the goal for a complete overhaul of the education system is to ensure our students have the most improved performance in Canada within the next five years. In the WSD, the Provincial data has shown our students have made consistent gains and exceeded the provincial mean. It is our belief that the success of a child is not based on a number but rather, to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provides equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society. Excellence looks different for every student and the K to 12 education system must support students with programs and services that are equally diverse.

Bill 64 destroys current school board governance which allows school boards to address the local needs of school communities and provide programs, services and supports to ensure a child has all the tools necessary to be successful in school and beyond.

The members of the Board believe that the integrity of the WSD must be maintained as presently constituted in order that students and parents can be guaranteed the same level of programs and services that are available to them in the WSD.

A significant change to the delivery of education has the potential to remove school-based decision making, holding school boards accountable and transparent and allocating funding to support programs and services for students based on local needs. It has the potential to become an industrial model of education where equity, learning and teaching are no longer an individual choice.

I would encourage you to voice your concerns to the provincial government and join other organizations to urge the Provincial Government to preserve the significance of local school-based decision making across Manitoba, reassess the governance and regional model, factoring in student population and school community representation, specifically for the City of Winnipeg.

Yours truly,

Betty Edel
Board Chair, Trustee Ward 8

Jamie Dumont, Vice-Chair, Trustee Ward 1

Yijie Chen, Trustee Ward 6 Cindy Murdoch, Trustee Ward 5 Arlene Reid, Trustee Ward 7
Chris Broughton, Trustee Ward 2 Linda Schatkowsky, Trustee Ward 9