



January 2011

Turtle Mountain School Division Highlights

Mission Statement

“The students are the focus of all our efforts. The Division strives to provide an education that prepares individuals for a meaningful life in a changing world. We promote a learning environment that begins in the home, continues in the school and is supported by the community.”

Capital Projects

Public Schools Finance Board – Projects on the go: There are three projects currently happening in the Division that are funded by the Public Schools Finance Board through debentures. This means that the costs for these projects are paid for by the Province. The Division pays for the expenses first and then through a debenture process gets reimbursed by the Province. Both Killarney and Boissevain schools are having extensive work on their roofs. As well, Killarney School is getting a new elevator. The old elevator in the school was deemed inoperable and Public Schools Finance Board determined that a new one was in order. The new elevator should be in use by mid-March. The completion of the work on the roofs will take a bit longer to complete due to the fact that they are being repaired in the winter, which poses challenges in itself.

School/Department	Description	\$ Amount
Boissevain School	Roof Repairs	415,826
Killarney School	Roof Repairs	110,784
Killarney School	Elevator	458,850
Total Debentures		985,460

Board Committee Representatives

Committee	Representatives
Education	Wooley (Chair), Highfield, Cann, MacKenzie
Operations	Cole (Chair), Coupland, Hintz, Heide
Negotiations	Coupland (Chair), Nichol, Highfield, Wooley
Finance	Highfield (Chair), Cann, Cole, MacKenzie
Workplace, Health & Safety	Heide, MacKenzie
Information & Computer Technology (ICT)	Nichol, MacKenzie
Risk Management	Heide
Teacher's P.D.	Nichol

Capital “D” Projects

In the 2009-2010 budget and going forward, there has been an increase to the Capital “D” budget to the tune of \$50,000. This increase is being used for our Boiler/HVAC units in Boissevain and Killarney, particularly for the condensate lines. These units are 49+ years old and are long past their life expectancy. Unfortunately, according to Public Schools Finance Board (PSAB) we are a very long way down on the list of priorities within the province to get any kind of funding for replacement. The Division has decided to take matters into their own hands and has infused budget money into the condensate lines to cover emergency expenditures. We continue to lobby the Public Schools Finance Board to re-visit our concerns regarding our antiquated boiler units. We will keep you posted!

Board Trustees (2010/2011)

Trustee	Ward/Location	Position on Board
Garth Nichol	Ward II/Killarney	Board Chairperson
Rhonda Coupland	Ward I/Boissevain	Board Vice-Chairperson
Leah Cann	Ward I/Boissevain	Trustee
Rodney Hintz	Ward I/Boissevain	Trustee
Shirley Highfield	Ward II/Killarney	Trustee
Samantha Cole	Ward III/Highway 23	Trustee
Debra MacKenzie	Ward II/Killarney	Trustee
Gordon Wooley	Ward III/Highway 23	Trustee
Brad Heide	Ward II/Killarney	Trustee

Graduating Class Survey

For the past seven years, students in grade 12 in the Division have been asked the following question: “To what level do you agree or disagree that high school has provided you with the following?” (Numbers represent the total percentages of “strongly agree” and “somewhat agree.”)

Important Skills	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A feeling of self confidence	78	89	91	89	90	89	91
Critical thinking skills	84	94	95	87	98	98	94
Problem-solving skills	95	97	84	98	94	97	92
Ability to work independently	97	92	96	95	97	96	90
Ability to work cooperatively with other people	93	96	98	97	100	94	98
Ability to do basic math	93	98	100	100	100	99	97
Ability to use computer/Internet	84	95	90	93	96	98	97
Ability to communicate effectively	97	97	94	94	100	97	94
Learning/School Environment							
A safe learning environment	90	97	97	100	97	96	99
Knowledgeable teachers	87	97	97	90	96	95	95
Access to a computer	95	98	97	96	99	99	97
Guidance in how to use the World Wide Web/Email	84	96	79	88	88	96	87
Relevant textbooks/resource material	87	96	77	97	92	91	92
Opportunities for involvement in school activities	78	92	91	94	100	94	91
Relevant knowledge about Canada and the World	83	95	87	95	93	92	92
Career							
Useful information on employment options	79	80	92	85	89	87	75
Use information on post secondary education options	89	95	93	93	93	89	86
Job search techniques	72	76	83	81	95	78	75
Information on employment skills	74	78	82	81	92	88	82
Information on student financial assistance	66	73	82	79	84	72	75
Participation in a work/volunteer experience in the community	73	81	90	76	82	94	85
Knowledge of business	68	72	85	85	81	76	69

Winter Weather Transportation

It has been a particularly difficult year for the buses this winter. We have had our share of snow, and then some, making travel to and from school a challenge for our bus drivers. Kudos to the men and women bus drivers of our division that take on mother nature’s challenges head on. We appreciate your bravery and dedication to serving our students, ensuring they arrive safely to school and back home again.



Student Services News

Assessment

In complying with the Manitoba Education directive, Turtle Mountain School Division is working on refining the divisional assessment practice, particularly in assessment of learning. Assessment of learning provides a summative statement of what a child has learned or can do. This type of assessment usually occurs at the end of a unit of work and demonstrates whether curricular outcomes have been met. The purpose behind this form of assessment is to provide information to parents and the public and is usually used for reporting purposes.

Student Services Review

Over the course of the 2008 to 2010 school years, a team of educators from Turtle Mountain School Division under-

took the task to review the Student Services program. The approach consisted of the development and distribution of four different surveys to students, parents, educational assistants and teachers. The Committee asked Brandon University's Centre for Aboriginal and Rural Education Studies (BU Cares) in the Faculty of Education to assist them in analyzing the survey data. The survey results clearly demonstrated how well students with exceptionalities are benefiting from the educational experience provided by the school division staff. The results of the study reflect a significantly high level of trust and comfort in the leadership provided by the student services team. It was noted that students with exceptionalities from all levels of the survey are well regarded and their needs are generally well considered.

The recommendations are meant to support the good work and ongoing commitment staff have to the process of educational improvement. The recommendations will be the basis for the student services early planning process.

Roots of Empathy

Ms. Maggie Andres and Mrs. Krista Clyne are once again implementing the Roots of Empathy programs. Ms. Andres is implementing the program in Minto and Mrs. Clyne in Boissevain. The Roots of Empathy Program is an award-winning, evidence based classroom program. Roots of Empathy fo-

Parents of Graduating Class Survey

From 2005 to 2010, parents of grade 12 students have been asked to agree or disagree with the statement "I am satisfied with the skills and knowledge my child has acquired in the following areas:" (The accompanying table indicates the percentage of parents that agreed with the statement.)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
A) Reading	86	83	82	95	86	84
B) Writing	59	89	77	88	86	79
C) Mathematics	61	88	77	84	83	79
D) Science	75	88	77	84	90	79
E) Social Studies	83	85	74	92	93	85
F) Computers and technology	75	85	92	93	97	84
G) Health and physical education	72	72	77	89	97	95
H) Character education and social skills	59	72	77	80	83	84
I) Visual and/or performing arts	55	53	48	97	73	63
J) Child development	58	59	65	89	72	74
K) Budgeting/finances	47	57	63	66	62	32
L) Careers	55	36	60	89	69	74
M) Post secondary education	53	42	71	66	76	74



PRE-SCHOOL WELLNESS FAIR

Turtle Mountain School Early Childhood Committee is once again hosting the annual Pre-School Wellness Fair. The Wellness Fair will be held in Killarney on Thursday, April 14, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and in Boissevain on Thursday, April 28, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

It is common practice in school divisions in Manitoba to re-key all exterior doors at their schools. We are no exception and after 7 years, it was time to do it. Boissevain, Killarney and Minto Schools have now all been re-keyed.

Finance

It is that time of year again when Senior Administration and the Board of Trustees are furiously working on budgets. We are required by Schools Finance Branch to submit our special levy requirements to our local municipalities by March 15 and the final budget numbers to the Province by March 31. Needless to say, this is a major time crunch for all involved and many decisions are made at these meetings to try and accommodate as many of the requests for increases to budget while keeping in mind the tax implications to the ratepayers of our Division. Stay tuned for the Budget Highlights that will be available at the end of March 2011.

Funding Announcement from the Province? What does this mean for Turtle Mountain School Division? This shall be revealed in the Budget Highlights Newsletter.

COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

We have completed one year of payroll and a half year on finance with our new software package CIMS. It has been a year of significant growth in our Division for web access. There have been many changes for both staff and administration. All employees receive an electronic pay statement that they can access at any time through the web. Employees also request leaves on-line as well. This has significantly cut down the cost of paper, ink printing, and time for the Division. There is a professional development session in Winnipeg in April 2011 that many of our school administrators will be attending. They will have an opportunity to network with school administrations from other school divisions in the province. There will be new initiatives that we will implement during the course of the year, some of which are the following:

- ◇ Electronic file transfer payments to vendors
- ◇ On-line applications for facility rentals
- ◇ Interactive fixed asset inventory controls
- ◇ On-line applications for work orders
- ◇ On-line applications for information technology requests



SCHOOL ENROLMENT STATISTICS (2009-2010, 2010-2011)

School	Sept. 30, 2009	Sept. 30, 2010	Dec. 30, 2010
Boissevain	383.80	382.00	387.50
Can Am	26.00	27.00	27.00
Holmfield	19.00	19.50	19.50
Killarney	453.50	448.50	451.50
Mayfair	37.00	41.00	40.00
Minto	40.50	42.50	39.50
Wellwood	23.50	23.00	23.00
Total	983.30	983.50	988.50

These numbers are at full-time equivalency (F.T.E.). Students in Kindergarten are only counted as 1/2 time and are only funded by the province at 50%.

Report Cards

Manitoba Education

is working on

establishing a

standardized, parent

-friendly report card

for use in all public schools. The report

card will be piloted in selected schools

during the 2011-2012 school year. All

school divisions will be using the

provincially developed report card in the



Grade 12 Standards Tests Results for 2009-2010

	Div. Average	Prov. Average	Div. Pass Rate	Prov. Pass Rate
English Language Arts	62.5	63.9	88.9	80.4
Pre-Calculus Mathematics	69.4	68.5	88.0	81.2
Consumer Mathematics	73.8	63.7	100	83.2
Applied Mathematics	75.3	57.8	100	69.0

STAFFING

Name	Position	Reason
Cassandra Sprott	Teacher	Mat. Leave
Angela Gray	Payroll	Resigned
Teresa Kinsley	Secretary	Resigned
Melodie Gordon	Educational Assistant	Resigned
Rose Christiuk	Educational Assistant	Resigned
Cathy Workman	Educational Assistant	Resigned
Jodi Maurice	Educational Assistant	Resigned
Christine Guenther	Teacher	New Hire
Connie Dyck	Bus Driver	New Hire
Tara Romanyszyn	Clinician	New Hire
Al Hart	Teacher	New Hire
Lisa Holden	Clinician	New Hire
Heather Skeoch	Educational Assistant	New Hire
Angie Harper	Cafeteria	New Hire
Jessica Helwer	Educational Assistant	New Hire
Kayla Lee	Teacher	New Hire
Joan Blanchard	Secretary	New Hire
Nanette Glover	Educational Assistant	New Hire
Shelley Debacker	Educational Assistant	New Hire
Darci Hildebrand	Educational Assistant	New Hire

Partnerships

Cultivating partnerships with other school divisions has enabled Turtle Mountain School Division to offer programming it might not have been able to otherwise.



These programs and partner divisions are:

- * **High School Apprenticeship Option Program:** Southwest Horizon, Fort La Bosse, Rolling River and Beautiful Plains School Divisions.
- * **Career and Technology Studies Programs:** Southwest Horizon, Prairie Spirit, Prairie Rose and Evergreen School Divisions.
- * **Career Trek:** Southwest Horizon, Fort La Bosse, Park West, Rolling River, Brandon, Prairie Spirit and Beautiful Plains School Divisions.
- * **Study Manitoba School Divisions:** Southwest Horizon, Fort La Bosse, Rolling River and Beautiful Plains School Divisions.
- * **Reading Recovery:** Southwest Horizon and Brandon School Divisions.

Career and Technology Studies

Career and Technology Studies enables high school students in the Division to access technology education options/credits through learning opportunities in school and community settings. Our students can earn credits towards high school graduation through internships in the community such as applied childcare, applied health care, applied food preparation, farm machinery, applied auto body and applied welding to name a few. Student participation grows as families and businesses become more aware of the program and its opportunities.