

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION

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Division Highlights –Fall 2017 www.tmsd.mb.ca



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.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DIVISION PRIORITIES 2016-2020

- We will encourage students to be active, motivated learners.
- We will facilitate improvements in literacy and numeracy for all students.
- We will enhance communication strategies across stakeholder groups.
- We will align student experiences to facilitate success in an ever-changing world.

T.M.S.D. Begins Second Year of Four Year Strategic Plan

With 2017-2018 now well under way, within Turtle Mountain School Division we look forward to continuing our work from last year as well as beginning our new Core Competencies initiative in 2017-2018.

Throughout 2017-2018 staff will be receiving professional development through the New Pedagogies for Deeper Learning network (<http://npdl.global/>). Staff will be working to strengthen our focus on ensuring students develop their skills in a number of core competency areas, skills which will serve our students well regardless of their pursuits after graduation. School administration has already introduced N.P.D.L. to staff, and we will be working with Mag Gardner from the N.P.D.L. at our upcoming professional development day on October 30, 2017.

In addition, within T.M.S.D. we will continue our work to strengthen our career development initiatives within the division. Our use of Career Cruising will continue to expand this year, and give students the ability to explore career options along with post-secondary requirements for these options. By doing so, and by guiding students through this process

starting in grade 7 & 8, students will be able to start thinking about their career aspirations and plan their high school course selections accordingly. We will also continue to offer a number of other career-related initiatives, including career days both within and outside T.M.S.D. as well as offering apprenticeship and internship credits in the later high school years.

Literacy and numeracy continues to have a strong focus in 2017-2018, and as part of this staff will be working to implement the new English Language Arts curriculum. We are also beginning our second year working on a grade six and nine math initiative through the Manitoba Rural Learning Consortium. This project is meant to strengthen our practice in math instruction and assessment, and therefore promote student learning.

Finally, we are continuing this year to implement the resiliency survey for grade 4-12 students, and through this process we gain a better understanding of where students need additional support. We want to ensure all students feel a sense of belonging within school, maintain their mental health and well-being, and develop the skills needed to succeed.

We look forward to a productive and successful year in 2017-2018.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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ADMINISTRATION

Tim De Ruyck, Superintendent/CEO Kathy Siatecki, Secretary-Treasurer
Grant Wiesner, Asst. Superintendent of Student Services Tyler Shiels, Supervisor of Buildings and Maintenance
Attila Szabo, Transportation Coordinator

Maintenance

The summer brought one big change to the maintenance department, with long time custodian Doug Gray retiring after 33 years with division. We would like to thank Doug for all his years of service and wish him all the best in the future. With that we would like to welcome our new head custodian to the staff at Boissevain School. Mr. Joseph Hammond of Boissevain has been working with us since August and has been doing a wonderful job learning the ropes, we are excited to welcome and work with Joe for many years to come.

The Division has done a number of renovations at all three of the big schools, Killarney upgraded the entire school to LED lighting under the Manitoba Hydro program and will look forward to a greener and more cost effective space, as well as new flooring in the cafeteria and high school bathroom renovations.

Boissevain is in the final stages of completion of the new grooming room as well as a major renovation to the music room, an overdue high school hallway flooring replacement, painting on multiple classrooms and a new office space in the school office.

In Minto School we took care of building a new custodial storage space, as well as installing a new water bottle fill station. We also installed new A.C. units in all classrooms to enhance the comfort of the students and staff.

Our custodial staff did a great job at all schools with the annual summer maintenance, with the help of top notch summer students, when tasked with tight timelines our staff are always willing to meet or exceed the challenges they face.



Finance

The 2016-2017 financial statements will soon close and be ready for the audit. This is the final act that is required to close out the books for another year. Our auditors will be in the 2nd week of October. It was a good year. Not too many surprise expenses and we finished off well. Once the audit is completed, they are submitted to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. Once again all the school books under the auspice of the Division were handed in on time and our audits were completed by the middle of August. Thanks so much to all of our staff who diligently work on these books all year and provide us with a quality product to audit. Your services are invaluable and we appreciate the time and effort you put into them.

Next up is budget submissions for the 2017-2018 school year, where schools make their submissions on where they want to spend their money. The templates should be out shortly. The first projected financials include July to October. This gives us a current snapshot of how we are doing so far.

School Administrators, Senior Administration, and the Board of Trustees will meet on October 26, 2017 to review current budget processes and possible changes in future budget deliberations.

The stakeholders meeting for the 2018-2019 budget deliberation process is being held on November 8, 2017 at the Division Board Office Board Room. 7:00 p.m. is the start time. If you wish to make a presentation to the Board of Trustees, please contact the division office to be included on the agenda. Invitations to our stakeholders will be sent out shortly. There is also an ad in the local newspapers with this information.

The coming years of budget deliberations will be challenging and your voice counts. Please let it be heard! I encourage you all to get involved.

Transportation

This September, Turtle Mountain School Division started the 2017/18 school year with 20 regular routes (10 Killarney, 8 Boissevain, 2 Minto based), we transport approximately 580 students to the schools and back home. In addition, we have nine spare buses and eighteen well-trained spare drivers. We received a new wheelchair bus (#44.74) and our experience is really good so far.

National School Bus Safety Week: October 16-20, 2017, Manitoba Education will be using “My Driver – My Safety Hero!” as the theme.



A Professional Development day for all the school bus driver will be on October 30th in Killarney. A full day is planned, with topics including First Aid, a presentation from the Public Health Nurse, strategies for managing student behaviour, as well as defensive driving practices.

Preparation for Inclement Weather

Last winter, as we all remember, we experienced extreme winter weather conditions such as a lot of snow, blizzards, and freezing temperatures. Our drivers and families faced many challenges in order to safely transport the students. The preparation for this winter has already begun by cooperating with the municipalities, and thoroughly planning all of the bus routes. Also, regular inspections and maintenance are being done on the buses to prevent possible future breakdowns. We improved the school bus radio network coverage, and we are working on renewing our dispatcher service system. To improve safer travel on the buses, we continued the security video camera installations. Now sixteen regular buses have functioning cameras.

In determining whether classes will be cancelled, the Transportation Coordinator and the Superintendent/CEO will check weather conditions throughout the division, as well as with the Highways Department to determine the severity of the weather and road conditions. When a decision is made to cancel classes, an announcement will be made over radio and updates will be posted on the Division website.

The students and the families may check the TMSD School bus ridership policy and procedure documents and download them from the website, www.tmsd.mb.ca.

Student Services

Division Literacy and Numeracy Teacher-Leaders

Recognizing the importance that literacy and numeracy play in student success while at school, and in the future, Turtle Mountain School Division has created the positions of Literacy and Numeracy Teacher-Leaders with the support of provincial grant funding as well as the T.M.S.D. Board. The Literacy Teacher Leader is a .80 position, while the Numeracy Teacher Leader is .50 time.

Val Kachur, the Literacy Teacher Leader, has been an educator for 20 years. She taught all grades from 1-8 within three different school divisions. She has a Special Education Degree and spent her first 5 years in TMSD in Student Services. Val's passion for children, great teaching and sharing her love of literature led her to apply for the job of Literacy Teacher-Leader in the school division. The role of Literacy Coach combines Val's love of teaching reading and writing, while coaching her many outstanding colleagues and learning from them. While travelling to TMSD's seven schools, she is able to conference, network and co-teach with all teachers, in all disciplines. Val's goal, each and every day, is to share her love of literacy and ensure that all children have the opportunity to be successful while engaging with text.

Felicia Billaney, TMSD's Numeracy Teacher-Leader, grew up in Killarney and now lives in Boissevain. Felicia graduated from Brandon University and then began her teaching career in Brandon before coming to Turtle Mountain School Division. Her experience includes Classroom Teacher, Resource Teacher, Reading Recovery Teacher, Literacy Support Teacher and now Numeracy Teacher Leader. Felicia is a lifelong learner and believes that education is the key to success. As the Numeracy Teacher Leader, Felicia works closely with senior and school administration. She provides leadership and hands-on classroom numeracy support for all schools within the division. Felicia also supports her colleagues through coaching and co-teaching in the areas of instructional planning, implementation, and assessment to assist in maximizing student achievement across grade levels and subject areas.

Val and Felicia facilitate professional development opportunities for teachers and create learning teams to share best practice within the schools. They collect and use student data to drive teaching. They regularly consult with teachers, student services and administrators to

bring literacy and numeracy to the forefront of all programming within the schools in TMSD.

Division Social Work Clinician

Turtle Mountain School Division has a full-time Social Work Clinician who is available to help support students, families, and schools. This position is funded through provincial grant funding as well as support from the T.M.S.D. Board. The Social Work Clinician is able to provide counselling services to students on a multitude of levels that vary from informal conversation to more in-depth counselling on a variety of issues. The Social Work Clinician also supports students beyond one-on-one situations, including small group and classroom interventions. Schools are supported by professional development activities that support and empower student success and achievement. The division social worker relies on existing student strengths to support their social, emotional, academic and physical well-being.

T.M.S.D.'s Social Work Clinician is Erin Sawatsky, who was born and raised on a farm south of Killarney, MB. After graduating from Killarney School in 2000, Erin went on to study at the University of Manitoba where she obtained a Bachelor of Social Work degree in 2006. She started her career as a Social Worker within the former Brandon Regional Health Authority, and moved on to the Department of Families in 2011. At the same time, she worked towards obtaining a Master's of Social Work degree from Dalhousie University in 2012. Erin's career has focused on assisting children and their families go through high stress situations such as divorce and separation, loss and grief, mental illness and substance abuse, as well as connecting families to the appropriate resources within their community.

In her new role, Erin would like to continue supporting children and their families within the Turtle Mountain School Division. Erin's goals as T.M.S.D.'s Social Work Clinician are to understand student behavior from a holistic perspective, build on strengths to improve the social, emotional, and academic functioning of a student, build relationships with students, families, schools and communities, ensure that programs are accessible to students and families, and build upon the strengths of a student and family within their home community. Erin looks forward to meeting students, their families, and staff, as well as working within each community in TMSD, as a liaison between home and school.