



Seine River School Division 2021 – 2022 Budget

March 10, 2021 Lorette, Manitoba

Budget Content

The budget approved by the Board of Trustees of SRSD last night exemplifies its commitment to providing the highest quality education by providing learning opportunities in a safe and caring environment. The Board recognizes the tremendous challenges that the Covid-19 Pandemic has placed on schools, families and communities.

This fall the school division was able to increase staffing allocations to schools in a significant way to provide appropriate educational supports given our circumstances due to extra funds from the provincial and federal government along with cost savings reductions. During the pandemic the division increased staffing supports by 30 FTE teachers and 35 Educational Assistants and added extra custodial and support positions.

The 2021-2022 funding announcement provides Seine River School Division with a \$57,057,666 operating budget which has made it challenging to maintain staffing levels to the Pre-Covid levels. The budget makes no special allocation for additional Covid measures in the fall and we are confident that if additional measures are required that the government will provide supports as they have this past year. The Budget also has been developed with the anticipation that any additional costs associated with salary adjustments are consistent with the provincial government bargaining mandate. Any salary adjustments above this mandate will greatly reduce our financial outlook and require further reductions. The status quo teacher staffing budget includes reductions in grounds improvement, professional development, maintenance projects, divisional IT support, technology and furniture purchases and library resources.

Individual homeowners will see a property tax reduction of 2.51% or \$46.02 on the average assessed house assessed at \$286,000.

Finding the balance between the educational needs of the students and fiscal responsibility was a difficult task for this budget year. The Board asked the public to submit budget requests and submissions based upon the implications the 2021-2022 financial situation. As a result of the feedback, the public clearly identified mental health supports, intervention supports for struggling students, support for Kids at Play and to support schools by maintaining as much staff as possible.

While decisions are still to be made the Board has decided to not anticipate salary adjustments in response to community input and expectations. Currently the Board is preparing the budget with the following highlights unless other government expectations change. Reductions in other areas and redeployment of resources will continue to occur as we implement the 2021-2022 budget.

Budget Highlights:

- FTE Staffing of 326 Teachers (which includes all principals, resource teachers, clinicians, classroom teachers and support teachers). This is an FTE equivalent to the teachers in the budget prior to the pandemic.
- Kids at Play will continue for the 2021-2022 School Year
- Parents will continue to not pay student fees as we know this relieves a great deal of financial pressures on many families
- K-4 Bussing will continue once the Pandemic restrictions subside
- Reduction of bus purchases from Four to two or a savings of \$260,000

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