



Report to the Community 2015-2016

The Report to the Community highlights the Board's planning efforts for the upcoming school year and in addition, provides a reflection of the work and accomplishments of the Division in 2014-15.

The 2015-16 school year will be a significant year in the Board's planning cycle as the strategic plan enters a review and development phase. In the creation of the new strategic plan, the Board and Division staff will continue their efforts to collaborate with community in supporting and facilitating student learning to ensure the needs of its students are met, both today and well into the future.

Preamble

The current St. James-Assiniboia School Division's 2009-2014 Strategic Plan is a road map and a living framework for the community that is used to define the core beliefs and values, highlight the intended outcomes the Board of Trustees and division staff are trying to achieve, as well as outline the action plans required to meet these stated outcomes. Ultimately, the strategic plan provides guidance to the Board, the staff and community in terms of where the focus of the organization is currently, as well as providing insight into the future of the Division.

St. James-Assiniboia School Division currently provides educational programming and services to approximately 8,200 students from kindergarten to Grade 12. Over one thousand teachers, administrators and support staff serve the student body in its twenty-six schools. Fifteen of these schools are at the early years (K-5), six at the middle years (6-8), and four at senior years (9-12), with one alternative school. In addition, there were approximately 3,400 adults enrolled in our Continuing Education programs over the past year.

St. James-Assiniboia School Division believes it is important for all educational partners in the community to work together to provide an environment that will enable students to be active and successful learners. Ultimately, student success requires the collaborative efforts of staff, students, parents, as well as community and business members.

The Division also understands that the educational environment in which it provides leadership continues to experience change and subsequently faces many challenges. Changing demographics has led to increasing differences in student backgrounds, abilities, needs and desires, creating a more diverse student population. The result of these demographic changes provides the impetus for the Division to continue to explore new and innovative approaches to programming and services for its students.



Implementing the Strategic Plan

St. James-Assiniboia School Division and each of its schools' actions plans continue to be linked to our strategic plan. The main outcomes are translated into smaller, more specific strategies, which are undertaken by individuals, departments and teams throughout the system. Progress towards the strategic outcomes of the plan is reported on and measured using appropriate indicators to ensure that all Division activities facilitate and further the goals of the plan. Our primary goal is to ensure that each and every student believes "I can succeed in an ever-changing world!"

Each year of the strategic plan, the Board of Trustees and the Senior Administration meet to discuss and report on the progress of the implementation of the strategic plan. This annual review of the plan assists the Board in determining the priorities within the plan and ensures the necessary resources are in place for the Board identified initiatives. The plan articulates the mission, vision and values of the Division and provides a future focus for applying these principles through the strategic outcomes and their associated actions. The outcomes identify the priorities within the plan. The Board expects that, in carrying out the activities associated with the implementation of the strategic plan, all employees will adhere to the principles set out in the mission, the value and the belief statements of the strategic plan.

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Strategic Outcomes for 2009–2014

1. Students will value the concept of social justice and recognize its importance for the betterment of an ever-changing world.
 - a. Students will practice and promote sustainable living habits.
 - b. Students will practice and promote social responsibility and respect for self and others.
 - c. Students are engaged in the community in a positive way.
 - d. Students will practice healthy lifestyles.
2. Students are active learners able to demonstrate a high level of academic, intellectual and social engagement.
 - a. Students will experience programming, services and instructional practices that meet their learning needs.
3. Schools will nurture and promote a positive relationship with families and the local community.
 - a. Schools will provide a safe and meaningful environment to facilitate critical dialogue among schools, families and the local community.
4. The Division will have exceptional staff, a balanced divisional financial position an appropriate physical infrastructure that support and enhance students' educational experience.
 - a. The Division will grow, protect and use its revenues effectively to achieve positive student outcomes.
 - b. The Division will have safe physical learning and plant environments.
 - c. The Division will have exceptional, experienced teaching and support staff.

The identified actions and indicators for each of the above areas can be found on the Division's website – www.sjsd.net or in brochures available at each of the Division's schools. The identified strategies describe some of the areas in which administration will provide leadership and support in order to provide consistency throughout the implementation of the strategic plan.

Division Highlights for 2014–15:

The following is a list of some highlights, though not exhaustive, of the significant accomplishments relating directly to the Division's plan in 2014-15:

I. Students will value the concept of social justice and recognize its importance for the betterment of an ever-changing world.

Students engaged in an extensive variety of social justice and student leadership initiatives – sustainable living projects, school green teams, Safe Schools committees, youth forums, healthy lifestyle program, Anti-bullying programs, Gay-Straight Alliance programs, Senior Buddy programs, and various local and global fundraising for social justice issues. Student voice was incorporated in the planning and imple-

menting actions process at all school levels through the Tell Them From Me provincial survey and the divisional survey that asked students how safe they felt in their school.



II. Students are active learners able to demonstrate a high level of academic, intellectual and social engagement.

All school plans emphasized multiple literacy and numeracy strategies to support students' academic achievement – mental math and problem solving strategies, math enhancement and intervention, Reading Recovery, cross-grade reading buddies, community literacy and numeracy evenings, Literacy Leaders, Welcome to Kindergarten program, Divisional Literacy Committee, Divisional Literacy Links Coordinator, FAST Reading program, and Precision Reading.

A diverse number of research based initiatives were clearly evident to support students in their learning success – Deep Learning (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Citizenship), Mobile Learning Platforms, Manitoba School Improvement Program (MSIP), Integrated Arts initiative, Roots of Empathy Program, Friends for Life Program, Universal Design Learning Project, WITS Anti-bullying program, Regie Routman Residency, Orff pedagogy Musical Arts program, Wrench Bike club, 7 Habits of Happy Kids and TAG Groups cross-grade connections.

The Division implemented a number of committees and programming aimed at increasing positive awareness in a variety of areas to improve student learning, engagement and attendance - Mental Health Advisory Committee, Aboriginal Awareness programming, English as an Additional Language programming, Winnipeg Jet Hockey Academy partnership with True North Foundation, alternative senior years programming, self-directed learning models at each of the senior years schools, International Student Program and the online program InForm Net.

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Every school in the division administers a vast array of excellent athletic opportunities, quality arts programming and distinctive co-curricular activities and clubs to increase social engagement.

III. Schools will nurture and promote a positive relationship with families and the local community.

The Division continued to develop and implement community links and partnerships with various organizations that further help meet the learning needs of the students - Safe Schools Manitoba, Parent Child coalition as well as the daycares, Roots of Empathy Program, and Continuing Education programs.

The Division continued to explore strategies to better communicate with parents in the Division on issues of programming, attendance, instruction and reporting of students' progress – Report to the Community, information evenings, assessment and evaluation, Restitution, Five-Year Financial Projections, the Middle Years Digital Initiative, Early Childhood Development Committee and the parent portal.

IV. The St. James-Assiniboia School Division will have exceptional staff, a balanced divisional financial position and appropriate physical infrastructure that support/enhance students' educational experiences.

The Division continued to provide new staff orientation sessions; the staff recognition program; professional development for administrators, teaching staff and support staff throughout the year; Coordinator of Instruction classroom support and prospective teacher information presentations. Workplace, safety and health school committees continued to review school buildings (physical layout, student accident and aggressive behavior data) to ensure that the learning environment and daily practices and procedures carried out in the schools are done in a safe manner. Five-year capital and technology plans were updated with a number of projects upgraded or completed throughout the Division that helped to improve programming and overall safety of the buildings.

Five-year financial plans were reviewed and updated to ensure that the appropriate resources and controls were in place to provide educational programming and ensure fiscal responsibility. Specific areas of review included: provincial funding, operating reserve, capital reserve, lease revenue, bus/vehicle/equipment replacement, staffing, and the school mill rate and tax comparisons. A public budget meeting, highlighting the 2015-16 Division budget, was held in February 2015. The annual Student Enrolment Projections were updated and used to help guide staffing and the Division budgeting process. A comprehensive, detailed budget, that provides budget highlights, financial comparisons, project descriptions, etc., is available at www.sjsd.net.