

SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION

Divisional Plan

2016 - 2017

This draft plan was developed by the Seven Oaks School Division Board of Trustees at its annual Board Retreat in August 2016. It is intended to be a living document, updated and revised as required to meet evolving needs and changing circumstances.



September 26, 2016

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

Our mission and our motto “Community Begins Here” embrace the idea that our schools are at the very heart of our Seven Oaks community.

Strengths of our School Division:

- Our schools are open year round, evenings and weekends to the community by permit and through division supported programs (i.e. KYAC, MYAC, EDGE, BEEP, Sistema Winnipeg, Keeping Balance, MY Camp, Heritage Language classes, Victory Lighthouse programming).
- Our schools contribute to our community through staff and student volunteer contributions, social justice projects, and by focusing on environmental stewardship.
- Our schools make life easier for working parents by providing free lunch supervision, housing daycare centres, before and after school childcare programs and by busing children to and from community daycares.
- We extend the school day and the school year with after school and summer programs focussed on serving those students who will benefit most from these programs.
- We work in partnership with parents and guardians and share the responsibility for children’s education.
- We involve our community in planning and priority setting.

Next Steps: Building Our Community

Communications

- Engage the community through regular opinion sampling including:
 - School focussed ThoughtExchange Survey (March/April 2017) with schools reporting back to their respective parent communities. This survey will be conducted every two years.
 - ThoughtExchange Survey of recent graduates using social media and text notices to boost participation. This may be expanded to a second year of surveys with a healthy response rate.
 - A Community Survey to gauge community perceptions and inform the division on ongoing communications.
- Undertake a communications review to ensure that we are consistent and focussed in our messaging. This review will include an update of our website and a possible update of our logo.

Questions

- **Are we listening to the voices of our students and parents?**
- **Are we communicating effectively with our community?**

HEALTH and FITNESS

- Continue comprehensive school based initiatives (SO Active, SO Healthy) to promote health, nutrition and fitness at four pilot schools (A.E. Wright, Margaret Park, Collicutt and Victory) using an approach modeled on the successful APPLE Schools program in Alberta.
- Set school by school goals to improve our active transportation to school in partnership with the Green Action Centre using the BikeWalkRoll survey to track progress.
- Pilot Bike Education in partnership with Manitoba Public Insurance and Bike Winnipeg at H.C. Avery, Forest Park, Collicutt and R.F. Morrison.
- Begin to expand the general community recreation use of our facilities (open gyms, rec leagues, parent run programming).
- Pilot Kildonan Park Golf Course as site for cross country skiing and snowshoeing.
- Review our practices with respect to concussion prevention and treatment.

Question

- **Are we effectively introducing all students to the habits of lifelong fitness and health?**

EQUITY

Public schools exist to give every child a quality education. Seven Oaks Schools work to make a positive difference to the lives and life prospects of each and every student with a particular focus on those who most need a difference made for them.

Strengths of our School Division:

- Seven Oaks Schools have caring structures in place to ensure that every child is known, cared for and able to succeed (multi-age classes, looping, teacher advisor, Wayfinders, academic and social supports).
- Seven Oaks School Division has reduced or eliminated most cost barriers to full participation in its schools (field trip fees, student fees, graduation fees, learn to swim, learn to skate, musical instrument rental fees, lunch supervision, low cost school supplies).
- Seven Oaks Schools provide greater supports to those students with the greatest needs to ensure that they achieve meaningful outcomes and stay on track to achieve curriculum outcomes and graduate.
- Seven Oaks Schools are safe. Our schools have the lowest incidence of homophobic bullying in Winnipeg.

Next Steps: Equity

Removing Barriers

- Continue to build initiatives that remove barriers and lead to improved outcomes for those children who most need a difference made for them (First Nations students, children in care, children impacted by poverty). Specifically the division will focus on:
 - Continued expansion of Wayfinders.
 - A second Sistema program (Margaret Park School).
 - Continued Aboriginal Education initiatives including the development of another comprehensive PATH Plan.
 - Initiate and support the development of the Ojibwe Bilingual program.
 - Expanded use of tablets to bridge the digital divide.
- Continue implementation of no cost musical instruments at high school.

Question

- **Are we making a difference for those students who most need that difference made?**

A STAFF THAT REFLECTS OUR COMMUNITY

- Make continued progress in hiring and developing a strong staff this is reflective of our community.

Question

- **When our students enter our schools do they see themselves reflected back by our staff?**

CHILDREN IN CARE

- Work to develop and gain support for an Interdivisional Protocol for Children in Care that would provide greater stability and security for children and improve educational outcomes.
- Implement relevant and applicable recommendations from the “Improving Outcomes for Children in Care” report.
- Further develop our partnership with Child Welfare Authorities and our research partnership with the University of Manitoba to benefit Children in Care.

Question

- **How can we help children in care to flourish in school and in life?**

PLANNING and BUDGET

Seven Oaks School Division uses its resources wisely in order to create the best possible learning conditions for our students.

Strengths of our School Division:

- The division balances educational needs and fiscal capacity maintaining reasonable class sizes, quality programs and student services.
- The division's lobbying efforts have made gains in correcting funding inequities.
- Expenditure is clearly directed to the classroom to benefit students.
- The division plans proactively for growth resulting in new schools:
 - West Kildonan Collegiate – 2008
 - Amber Trails – 2015
 - École Rivière-Rouge – 2016
- Substantial renovations and additions:
 - Edmund Partridge – 2009
 - Garden City Collegiate – 2009, 2016
 - Maples Collegiate – 2014
 - R.F. Morrison – 2015

Next Steps: Planning and Budget

- Continue to advocate for a fair system of school funding to benefit the students and community of Seven Oaks, in particular:
 - Stronger equalization measures.
 - Recognition of “in year” cost increases in equalization.
 - Stronger recognition for costs of increased enrolment.
 - A transfer of 0% guarantee funds to equalization.
- Advocate for new and expanded facilities to accommodate our growing enrolment, specifically:
 - Amber Trails addition.
 - New K to 5 Dual Track school in Ambergate.
 - West Kildonan Collegiate addition.
- Continue to plan for future development and acquire school sites in Precincts F, G, and West St. Paul.
- Begin development of 2990 McPhillips as a “learning garden”.
- Acquire a site and design and construct a new Maintenance/Transportation Service Centre including a meeting/professional development space and a “learning garden”.
- Continue to work with the Evergreen Foundation to develop guidelines and resources to support the development of school grounds and natural landscapes.

- Reconstitute the Board Budget Committee to review expenditure patterns and explore organizational efficiencies.
- Tender and construct the Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre at Garden City Collegiate and launch a fundraising campaign in support of the project.
- Complete a comprehensive accessibility plan for the division.

Questions

- **Are we making the best use of our resources?**
- **Are we planning adequately for the future?**

PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE and CAREER

Seven Oaks Schools prepare our students for life beyond Grade 12. High school graduation should be a launch pad to college and career opportunities. We want every graduate to have a plan for their future.

Strengths of our School Division:

- We enjoy healthy graduation and post-secondary entrance rates.
- We have a universal teacher advisor program to ensure that every high school student is known personally and provided academic support, counselling and guidance.
- We enjoy successful partnerships with post-secondary institutions particularly University of Winnipeg, Red River College and Université de St. Boniface through our Beyond Grade 12 program.
- We have well developed Cooperative Vocational Education programs (Materials Fabrication, Healthcare Aid, Culinary Arts, Aircraft Maintenance, Early Childhood, Plumbing and Pipe Trades) and Certificate programs (IT and Automotive).
- We have well developed and innovative approaches to ensure high school completion (MET School, Wayfinders).

Next Steps: Pathways to College and Career

- Continued expansion of CVE (Electrical, HVAC, Green Technologies, Building Construction) and Beyond Grade 12 program.
- Initiate “MET semester” options as a way to expand internship opportunities.

Question

- **Is every student leaving high school with knowledge of themselves, a sense of confidence and a plan for their future?**

ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING

Each and every child should be actively and meaningfully engaged in the learning process and should be engaged in thoughtful consideration of their work and their progress.

Rooted in the values of equity and diversity we will continue to improve classroom and school programs to ensure that each child is successful and able to live a fulfilling life and contribute to our community.

Strengths of our School Division:

- Our schools have shown consistent improvement in all indicators of student success, graduation rate, student engagement, extra-curricular participation, post-secondary entrance.
- Our teachers work to ensure their classrooms are characterized by curriculum that is relevant, relationships that are healthy and expectations that are high.
- We provide students with opportunities for broad participation and involvement in Arts, Sports, Technology, Leadership, Internship and Community Service.
- We offer divisional fitness programs that ensure healthy activity (i.e. Learn to Skate, Learn to Swim, Hockey, Soccer, Football, Dance).

Next Steps: Engagement in Learning

- Continue our focus on early years literacy and numeracy providing early years classroom teachers with increased time for collaboration and cooperation to ensure every student is learning, that we know the status and the progress of every student, know the reasons for any problems, intervene when there are signs of difficulty and use effective, evidence based teaching approaches.
- Expand the focus on literacy and numeracy to middle and senior years including formalizing “Teacher Talk” aimed at improving student learning.
- Continue to focus professional development on literacy and numeracy.
- Strengthen and focus professional development for educational assistants in order to ensure that we are fostering independence in our work with students with special needs.
- Further develop comprehensive indicators in order to review and track progress.
- Implement the Early Years curriculum and instruction partnership with the University of Manitoba.

Questions

- **Is every child actively and meaningfully engaged in learning?**
- **Do we know the status and the progress of every student, know the reasons for any problems, intervene when there are signs of difficulty and use effective, evidence based teaching approaches.**