News Release

For Immediate Release

St. James-Assiniboia School Division Board of Trustees Elect Chair & Vice Chair

November 16, 2026 (Winnipeg, MB) – At the inaugural meeting of the 2026–2030 St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) Board of Trustees on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, newly elected representatives voted for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

Tara Smith was re-elected to the role of Chair. Smith has previously served as Chair (2025–2026), Vice Chair (2024–2025), and has also held numerous committee roles including Chair of the Early Childhood Development Committee, the Safe and Caring Schools Committee, and the Community Engagement Committee. Smith was first elected in 2022. She represents constituents in the East Ward and is a teacher in the public education sector. Smith is a proud member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, a long-time resident of St. James, and a bilingual member of the Canadian Parents for French Network. She has two children currently attending schools in SJASD. “I am grateful for the support of my fellow Trustees. I look forward to continuing the work of ensuring every student feels safe, respected, and celebrated by advocating for high-quality, future-focused education and expanding opportunities in arts, sports, technology, and STEM so all learners can discover and develop their unique passions," said Smith.

Board members elected **Holly Hunter** to serve as Vice Chair. Hunter has previously held the role of Chair (2023–2025), Vice Chair (2022–2023), and has also served as Chair of the Education Committee. She was first elected in 2018. She also represents constituents in the East Ward and is a teacher in the public education sector. Holly is a lifelong resident of St. James and is a mother to twin boys who will begin school in SJASD in 2028. Holly holds Master’s degrees in Education and Public Administration. “I am excited to work with my fellow Trustees to ensure St. James-Assiniboia School Division continues to provide meaningful, inclusive, and caring educational environments where students are prepared to be responsible citizens in a democratic society,” said Hunter.

At the inaugural Board meeting, SJASD welcomed three new and six returning Trustees to the Division. Craig Johnson (2010–2022) and Craig McGregor (2002–2018) have served previous terms with the School Board. Trustees were sworn in to serve their four-year terms.

NEW
- Vicki Rempel, East Ward
- Craig Johnson, Centre Ward
- Craig McGregor, Centre Ward

RETURNING
- Tara Smith, East Ward
- Holly Hunter, East Ward
- Michael Cabral, Centre Ward
- Fiona Shiells, West Ward
- Cheryl Smukowich, West Ward
- Sandy Lethbridge, West Ward

SJASD would like to thank retiring Trustees for their many years of service, including outgoing Vice Chair Angela Dunn (East Ward), Trustee Craig Glennie (Centre Ward), and Trustee Rachelle Wood (Centre Ward).

SJASD is a progressive school division in west Winnipeg serving over 8,500 students across 26 schools. SJASD is committed to educational programs in which children can develop their natural abilities to their fullest extent, building upon personal strengths and the richness of our area’s culturally diverse population. SJASD operates on the traditional lands and waters of the Anishinaabeg, the Ininewak, and the Dakota Oyate peoples, and on the birthplace and homeland of the Red River Métis nation. For more information, visit sjasd.ca.

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Media Inquiries:
Michelle Lancaster, Communications Specialist, SJASD
Phone: (204) 888-7951, ext. 2013; Email: communications@sjasd.ca