



News Release

For Immediate Release

SJASD Budget Focuses Resources in the Classroom

Division maintains student learning supports, small class sizes and unique programming

March 9, 2023 (Winnipeg, MB) – The St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) approved its budget for the 2023/24 school year at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

The Board of Trustees approved an operating budget of **\$123,310,708**, an increase of **4.42 per cent** or \$5,218,449 over the 2022/23 budget. Significant reductions of **\$1.2 million** were identified through the budget review process, attained through staff attrition (retirements).

“Even with increased provincial funding, we’ve had to make some tough decisions as we prioritize the needs in the classroom while contending with cost pressures such as rising inflation, increased service costs and wage pressures,” said Cheryl Smukowich, Chair of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division Board of Trustees.

The mill rate for 2023 remains low, decreasing to **11.960**, down from 12.985 in 2022.

After estimated education property tax rebates, the average homeowner can expect net school taxes to decrease by 15.77 per cent next year, or **\$94.27** per household based on an average home value of **\$317,200** (City of Winnipeg March 2023 Property Assessment).

“Ultimately, this budget focuses the resources we have on the needs in the classroom to maintain support for student learning and instruction,” said Smukowich. “We’re maintaining small class sizes, continuing our investments in educational supports to help meet the rising needs of our students, and continuing to support unique programs of value to our community.”

In 2023/24, enrolment is projected to decrease slightly by **0.43 per cent**, or 36 students, for a total projected enrolment of **8,320 students**. Average class sizes are expected to remain well within the Board’s [guidelines](#), and similar to average class sizes for 2022/23.

Administrative costs align with the Provincial Government’s **2.7 per cent** requirement. SJASD also expects to set aside \$2,529,231, or **2.05 per cent** of operating expenditures as a Gross Operating Reserve. (*The Provincial Government’s guidelines for Operating Reserves is a maximum of 4.00 per cent*).

For more information on the 2023/24 budget, visit sjasd.ca/governance/budget.

SJASD is a progressive school division in west Winnipeg serving over 8,300 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 of the Anishinaabe, Ininew and Dakota peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis nation. SJASD respects the Treaties that were made on this territory. For additional information, visit sjasd.ca.

-30-

Media Inquiries:

Michelle Lancaster, Communications Officer, SJASD

Phone: (204) 888-7951, ext. 2013; Email: communications@sjasd.ca