

For Immediate Release

Holly Hunter and Tara Smith Elected to Chair & Vice Chair SJASD Positions

September 5, 2024 (Winnipeg, MB) – On Tuesday, September 3, 2024, Trustees voted for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair at the annual meeting of the St. James-Assiniboia School Division School Board.

Holly Hunter was re-elected to the role of Chair. Hunter has previously served as Chair (2023-2024), Vice Chair (2022-2023) and has also held numerous committee roles including Chair of the former Education Committee (2020-2022). Hunter is an educator in Winnipeg and holds a Master of Education degree. She is a life-long resident of St. James and was first elected to represent the constituents of the West Ward in 2018.

"I look forward to working with my fellow trustees to ensure that we are living up to provide meaningful, safe and caring educational environment so that all students are prepared to be responsible citizens in a democratic society," said Hunter.

Tara Smith was elected to the role of Vice Chair. She has served as the Chair of the Community Engagement Committee (2023-2024), and as a member of the Human Resources/Governance Standing Committee (2022-2023). She has also been a Board representative of the Divisional Early Childhood Education Committee and the Safe and Caring Schools Committee. Smith was first elected in 2022. She represents constituents in the East Ward of the Division and is a teacher in the public education sector. Smith is a long-time resident of St. James and a proud member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. She has two children currently attending schools in SJASD.

"I am grateful for the opportunity and would like to thank my fellow trustees for their support. As Vice Chair, I pledge to contribute my utmost effort towards the implementation of our strategic plan, advocate for every student, and ensure that all voices are considered in our decision-making process," said Smith.

SJASD would like to thank outgoing Vice Chair Sandra Lethbridge for serving in the role for the 2023-2024 school year. Lethbridge continues to represent residents of the West Ward.

At the next public Board Meeting on October 1, Trustees will elect representatives to standing and ad hoc committees for the 2024-25 school year.

For more information about the Chair and Vice Chair, visit the Governance section of SJASD's website.

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 and waters of the Anishinaabeg, the Ininewak, and the Dakota Oyate peoples, and on the birthplace and homeland of the Red River Métis nation. Our community is bound by Treaty One and we are all tied together through the treaties. For more information, visit sjasd.ca.

-30-

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