



# News Release

For Immediate Release: March 10, 2021

## St. James-Assiniboia School Division 2021/2022 Budget

*Supporting staff and students in our community with a responsive, current, and fiscally responsible education*

The St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) approved its 2021/2022 budget for the community it serves on Tuesday, March 9. The SJASD Board of Trustees announced that for the fifth consecutive year, the school division had received a cut in Provincial Funding. Although the Provincial Announcement indicated a Provincial Education increase of 0.5%, the St. James-Assiniboia has received a reduction of 0.1%. Overall Provincial Funding as a percentage of Total Operating Revenue has decreased from 72.95% in 1985 to 49.87% in 2021.

"Over the past three budgets, our board has taken a multi-year budgeting approach," said Craig Glennie, SJASD Trustee and the Chair of the School Division's Finance and Facilities Committee. "This long-term planning ensures that our division can maintain our current programs and services in the future. Our Board of Trustees are proud that over 92% of our Operating Expenditure Budget is spent directly on students in the classroom, through School-Based Student Support and Building Maintenance and Utilities."

The Board of Trustees approved an Operating Budget of \$112,349,742 for 2021/2022, which is a 1.85% increase of \$2,042,977 from 2020/2021. Reductions of \$2,764,700 were identified through the budget review process. Repair and renovation of school buildings occur through a 5-year plan (\$17.5 million), along with a 5-year plan for Technology Network upgrades and replacements (\$9.2 million).

The School Taxes for an Average Home (Home Value of \$282,900 in 2021) will decrease by 0.32% or \$5.35 per year. The SJASD continues to provide innovative and quality programming at a low mill rate. The mill rate will decrease from 13.147 to 13.105 in 2021.

"As community representatives, the SJASD Board of Trustees work with students, families and the public at large to ensure that our schools provide the programs and services that are wanted and needed locally," said Cheryl Smukowich, Chair of the SJASD Board of Trustees. "As the findings of the Education Review have not yet been announced, we do want to assure people, that unless a different direction is given, we will continue to work hard to represent the SJASD's learning community on meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of our students. The SJASD Board of Trustees are so thankful for our community, parents, and staff, as we continue to work together navigating through this global pandemic."

"Ensuring tax dollars are spent wisely is very important to the Board of Trustees," said Glennie. "That is why we are excited to announce that the Mill Rate for St. James - Assiniboia homeowners will go down by 0.32% this year. We were able to do this while maintaining all division programs and services and while maintaining the high level of education that SJASD is known for."

The SJASD continues to be compliant with the Provincial direction. Administration costs are budgeted to be 2.55%, which is lower than the Provincial Government's current requirement of 2.70%. Also, the SJASD is projecting a Gross Operating Reserve of \$173,689 or 0.2% of the 2021/2022 Operating Expenditures. The Provincial guideline for Operating Reserves is 4.0%.

For additional information, see our website at [www.sjasd.ca](http://www.sjasd.ca)

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