

## **Louis Riel School Division Board of Trustees Adopts Budget for 2026-2027**

**March 10, 2026, Winnipeg, MB** – At a special meeting on Tuesday, March 10, the Louis Riel School Division (LRSD) Board of Trustees approved an operating budget of [\\$281,731,342 for the 2026–2027 school year](#), a 2.89 per cent increase over the previous year. This translates to a mill rate increase, for home and property owners, of 9.99 per cent.

The budget prioritizes core classroom support while maintaining essential system-wide services and investments in student learning and wellbeing. Cost reductions, deferrals, and efficiencies were used to arrive at a balanced budget that includes the elimination of the accumulated deficit.

“Our responsibility is to steward public dollars carefully while responding to growing student needs,” said Jamie Rudnicki, Secretary-Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer. “This budget stabilizes LRSD’s financial position and ensures resources remain focused on classrooms and student supports, while we continue advocating for long-term solutions to infrastructure pressures.”

The approved budget [incorporates substantial community feedback collected via LRSD’s Budget and Strategic Priorities Survey](#). Respondents consistently identified priorities including class size and composition, student support services, mental health and wellbeing, and issues related to aging infrastructure.

“This budget reflects the voices we heard from families, staff, students, and community members,” said Sandy Nemeth, Chair of the LRSD Board of Trustees. “The Board worked to balance affordability for taxpayers with the need to maintain safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments for students. It is regrettable that for another year, we are deferring infrastructure improvements; however, classroom and student needs must come first.”

Budgetary decisions were implemented throughout all areas of the organization, with an emphasis on preserving classroom size and student support services. Trustees emphasized that inflation, increasing enrolment, years of austerity by previous governments, and binding contractual obligations, are contributing to ongoing and increasing financial strain.

“Our community was clear: students need support, classrooms need stability, and schools need to be safe and welcoming places,” said Christian Michalik, Superintendent & CEO. “This budget reflects those priorities while continuing our commitments to equity, reconciliation, and student wellbeing, even in a challenging fiscal context.”

*LRSD serves more than 17,500 students across 41 schools in southeast Winnipeg and is supported by more than 2,400 dedicated staff.*

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### **Media Inquiries**

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