

MARGARET WARD  
Superintendent/CEO

TYLER MORAN  
Assistant Superintendent



AL LEIMAN  
Secretary-Treasurer

*“Preparing Today’s Learner for Tomorrow”*

April 15, 2021

Dear ISD Staff, Families and Community Members:

With Spring Break now behind us, we are looking forward to the last three months of the 2020-2021 school year. What a year it has been so far! You are all to be commended for your incredible resilience in the face of complex and unrelenting COVID-19 challenges.

On March 15, Education Minister Cliff Cullen added to those challenges with his unveiling of the details of **Bill 64, The Education Modernization Act**. The purpose of this letter is to provide our community with an update from the perspective of the Board of Trustees.

**What you need to know about the potential impacts of Bill 64:**

- **Local school divisions will disappear**
  - The Interlake School Division will be dissolved, and our schools will become part of a 7000-student geographical region, formed through amalgamation with Lord Selkirk SD.
- **Parental responsibility & workload redefined**
  - With the creation of School Community Councils, parents/guardians will be asked to step into governance/management roles of their child’s school, without any clarity in the legislation about what their actual decision-making authority will be.
- **Support of local businesses in question**
  - Local business owners will need to secure contracts for goods and services related to schools in their community, in Winnipeg, rather than locally, as they do now.
- **Taxation without representation**
  - Even with the phase-out of education property taxes, as Manitobans, you will continue to pay the taxes that support local schools, with no elected voice to ensure the money is invested locally.
- **Elimination of your democratic rights**
  - The Board of Trustees of Interlake School Division will be eliminated.
  - Decisions about your local school will lie with an appointed Director of Education, who will report to the government-appointed Provincial Education Authority.

Perhaps the most important thing for you to understand, is that government has provided no details on how any of these proposed changes will benefit students or families. You are *strongly encouraged* to learn more about the damage that Bill 64 will create and to speak out against it. Visit [www.localvoices.ca](http://www.localvoices.ca) or email ISD Board Chair, Alan Campbell at [acampbell@isd21.mb.ca](mailto:acampbell@isd21.mb.ca) to learn more on lending your voice.

Stay tuned for more details from the ISD Board of Trustees in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alan Campbell'.

Alan Campbell  
Chair of the Board