

## LOUIS RIEL SCHOOL DIVISION

### **WARD 1**

Louise JOHNSTON –

“Thank you for this very important question. Safe and healthy children and communities are of critical importance.

I will more fully respond with my action plan by Oct 3.”

Tanjit NAGRA –

“For starters, I am very happy to see the student patrol program still active within schools - this is something I took part in while in elementary school within the Louis Riel School Division. In addition to school patrols, I fully support the City of Winnipeg's decision to create the new bylaw which reduces speed limits down to 30km/h in school zones; I believe this initiative will do a lot to secure the safety of our students.

During one of the Public School Board meetings I attended in the past few months, the board announced they had hired new cross guards to help students cross roads and major intersections more securely. If elected, I would advocate to sustain the current programs in place, and I would be open to listening to the concerns/suggestions of families in order to provide more ways to increase the safety of our students.”

Cindy TURNER –

“When considering modes of transportation to and from schools, many parents and guardians have valid reasons for driving their children. They point out the lack of safe routes as one of the reasons and I believe that the goal of the school boards is to figure out a way to overcome this objective.

I would like to see the school boards lobby their civic and provincial leaders to look into ways to ensure that there are safe walking and biking paths for area children. Infrastructure must look at all ages when building neighbourhoods, not just the needs of the tax paying residents. Winnipeg is moving forward on some of these issues such as lower speed limits in school zones and some residential sidewalks. However there are many streets in residential areas that have no sidewalks at all and the children have no alternative but to walk on the road.

One of the ways schools can get involved in active modes of transportation for their students is by participating in the International Walk to School Day. The schools could even carry it on to include the whole month of October. By partaking in this the children will begin to become accustomed to walking or biking to school. An added benefit would be that parents will see just how much more peaceful their mornings are when trying to get everyone out the door on time.

Active transportation, in addition to expanding daily physical activity, gives the children the chance to socialize with others from their school. These two things have shown to contribute to academic achievement, which is the goal of every member of the community.”

## **WARD 2**

Colleen MAYER –

“I encourage parents, students and all community members to participate in active modes of transportation when possible. LRSD administration has and will continue to work with schools and their communities to identify safe routes for children and families. I support several ongoing initiatives that have been implemented:

- crossing guards at major intersections where students actively cross
- walking school buses
- encouraging students and families to walk or bike to schools rather than drive
- providing safe and secure placement for bikes and scooters
- continue to educate students, families and the greater community about safe pedestrian travel

With our busy schedules and the Winnipeg climate, it may not always be possible to not use our vehicles but we can all do our part to adjust our driving habits. Being aware in school zones and around our communities, avoiding distractions while driving, reducing our speed – whether mandated or not, and speaking to our children about safe practices when walking or biking to and from school and are all good ways to support the safety of our children.”

Chris SIGURDSON – no response at this time.

Chris WILSON – no response at this time.

## **WARD 3**

Jeff FRANZMANN –

“This is something that impacts me personally. My older boy has to cross St Mary's on foot every day to get to school, and it always makes me nervous. I do think this is a priority, particularly as there are many methods currently available that don't require massive cost expenditures to implement in terms of safety. Working with the city to increase light times during school hours at busy crossings, implementing dedicated bike corridors during school hours (which may well require expense and research, but is well worth pursuing) and providing a more robust monitoring program

during school hours are three ways both the Board and City can insure that children are given healthy, effective methods of getting to school without fearing for their safety.”

Perry GILMOUR – no response at this time.

Josie LANDRY –

“Getting students to and from school safely is certainly a priority to me.

I would promote safety drills for school bus transportation.

I would promote walking and bicycle safety courses in the classroom for elementary students.

I would promote walking to school in groups or accompanied by an adult for younger children.

For bike riders, I would promote the use of bike paths wherever possible and lobby the city to paint defined white lines on the streets to indicate bike lanes.

I would promote the use of crossing guards at school intersections supervised by an adult.”

Sandy NEMETH –

“We regularly hear from our parents and administrators that student safety, when travelling to and from school, continues to be a serious concern, and as a school trustee and parent student safety is a huge priority for me personally. The benefits of active transportation are well documented and I fully support any and all efforts that would see more bike and walking paths, crossing guards, and walking school buses.

In my opinion, any discussion that pertains to student safety starts with parents. When we factor in school, we must include school and divisional administrators. Because we are talking about public property, we should include the City of Winnipeg, and since the fundamental principles of Green Action Centre speak to sustainability and environmental protection your expertise and goals must not be discounted. The value of partnerships that work toward a common goal cannot be overstated. If all of these groups work together, then student safety will be a priority as active transportation becomes more valued in our community.”

Robert PAGE – no response at this time.

Dave RICHARDSON –

“Safe and active transportation has always been a high priority. Active transportation is human-powered transport such as walking, biking, skateboarding and wheelchair. Health benefits include:

- Students are physically active

- There is positive social interaction when walking or biking to school
- Environmentally-friendly as Mom or Dad can reduce carbon emissions by not driving you to school
- Research clearly concludes that physically-active children perform better in school as learning is enhanced, student productivity increases, and negative behavioural issues are reduced once children become more physically active.
- Active transportation addresses child obesity very quickly and efficiently after students walk or bike to school.

Safe and active transportation. How?

- Schools and the Board collaborates with the city to ensure there are dedicated bicycle paths and walking routes to each school
- Educate the public to share the road with cyclists, especially in school zones
- Schools and the Board develop an integrated grid of pedestrian and cycling paths to each school
- The Board should encourage feedback from the public about the importance of this initiative in terms of student social, emotional, and physical well-being and how we as a community can improve safety. Our goal is to increase and sustain the number of students committed to safe and active transportation
- Finally, the Board needs to stress the viability of active transportation in below zero temperatures; develop and publish tips in safe walking and cycling in cold weather”

Carlene RUMMERY -

“This question is very timely, as the parent committee from my daughter's school is hosting it's first-annual "Walk and Roll Week," in which it is encouraging active transportation to and from school. As the former president of the parent committee, I spent many hours contemplating how best to encourage active transportation, and was very involved in the planning of the Walk and Roll event. Many parents in our school have concerns about the safety of our students due to traffic congestion. The irony is many parents drive their children to school because of perceived safety concerns. Our parent committee decided it was time to change those perceptions, and to work as a community to encourage families to find healthier means by which to travel to and from school.

Not that long ago, streets around schools were filled with children walking and biking to school. Now the streets are filled with cars, as many parents drive children to school out of ease, and because of safety concerns. The reality is traffic congestion around our schools poses more risk than any perceived reward. The further reality is the benefits of active transportation are astounding: it's healthier, it's environmentally friendly, families save money on gas, and kids get to know their community with their feet on the ground. On a personal level, I can say the first day my daughter walked to school on her own was terrifying, but the satisfaction of seeing her execute her independence far outweighed the fear.

The LRSD has taken measures (walking school bus programs in some schools, crossing guards at busy intersections, etc.) to encourage active transportation to school. This definitely can be expanded upon. From a governance standpoint, school divisions can adopt or build upon active transportation

policies, but that in and of itself is not "active." Unless we get families and the community "on the skateboard" so to speak, not much will change.

The difficulty lies in changing behaviours. How can this be accomplished? It truly comes down to creating an informed public, by:

- outlining safe routes in each school's student/parent handbook (ie: Where are the crossing guards/patrols? Which streets have less traffic? Etc.);
- encouraging parents to form "walking pools" to and from school for younger children (the younger the kids are getting active, the more likely they are to carry it forward); and,
- holding information sessions for parent committees which encourage a community-based approach to active transportation.

It is not something that can be done through one session or one event, but with ongoing efforts (policy changes, and seeing such implemented division-wide) we can certainly get there.

Until we do, I know first-hand the Green Action Centre, through its Active and Safe Routes to School program, will happily work with any school to develop action plans and map out safe routes. I encourage all schools in the LRSD (and beyond) to take advantage of this resource, so that we may build healthier (and safer) communities. “

Gill TYRRELL – no response at this time.

## **WARD 4**

Hugh COBURN – no response at this time.

Jeremy FRIESEN – no response at this time.

Candace MAXYMOWICH -

“There are issues that impede active transportation and I support creating a dialogue to address these challenges. One challenge some students face is that they transport more materials to and from school than they can comfortably carry while walking or cycling. This is something that needs to be addressed. Also, I support ensuring there are enough bike racks available for students to use.

I support initiatives that encourage students to walk or bike for a safe and enjoyable trip to school including walking school buses as well as walking and cycling buddies. This year, École Marie-Anne-Gaboury in Louis Riel School Division is taking part in International Walk to School Month by encouraging all families to participate by commuting to school in environmentally friendly ways such as walking, biking, skateboarding, car-pooling or taking the school bus. They have set a goal of reducing the

number of cars coming to the school by 50% or more.

Their first annual Walk and Roll Week includes a bike rodeo which will help young cyclists develop skills. Students will learn about bike and road safety, hand signals, and how to have better control while cycling. All students will participate. Students will also have their helmets checked for proper fit. They have asked families to consider donating bikes they've outgrown. Bikes that are donated will be available free of charge to students who are in need. This is wonderful to see and I would like to see all schools in Louis Riel School Division participating with such enthusiasm.

Student safety to and from school is of critical importance. I believe it's the responsibility of parents to teach their children the safety skills for walking to school. Schools can also help promote safety through awareness and educational campaigns.

It's important to note that while school boards are responsible for the governance of public schools, transportation largely falls outside of their authority. I would like to see a stronger relationship between the city and the school board to work to improve traffic flow, safety, and pedestrian and cycling infrastructure."

Tom PARKER – no response at this time.

Justin ST. LOUIS –

"Active transportation is an important part of the daily activity of our children. It is recommended that children aged 5-17 should accumulate 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity each day. These activities could include - biking, playground activity, running, swimming, rollerblading - all activities which increase the heart rate of the child.

As a parent, I understand that the physical health of our children is paramount to their success. Being active for 60 minutes a day has shown to improve overall health, make children stronger, improve their self-confidence, help maintain a healthy body weight, enhance motor skills, and most importantly, gets kids having fun.

As a trustee, I pledge to work with the board and the community leaders to enhance the ability for children to safely use active transportation methods to/from schools. These priorities include;

- a) Enhancing the reduced school zone limit to encompass all schools in the division.
- b) Ways to build/improve bike path network, like the one linking Royalwood with Southdale which allows an additional access point for children going to school in Southdale.
- c) Continuing to improve crosswalk signage - especially close to major streets in the ward. Recently, an overhead crosswalk was added on Island Shore across from Island Lakes School. Continue to find areas we can be safe.
- d) Making sure we continue to partner and provide low cost initiatives to encourage participation - such as the purchase of new bike helmets and expanding the program to provide low cost bike locks.

e) Create Active Transportation weeks in the spring that encourage the use of different green commuting methods to get to school - bike, rollerblade, skateboarding, etc.

f) Feasibility study of underground tunnels under Bishop Grandin and Fermor Avenue similar to the one across Bishop Grandin at St. Mary's road which allows for safe access between two communities without having to use a dangerous intersection.”