

ST. JAMES - ASSINIBOIA SCHOOL DIVISION

KING EDWARD - DEER LODGE WARD

Ed HUME -

“Physical fitness is high on my list of priorities. As an avid exerciser who has a degree in physical education, this is an area I would like to see expanded. Presently we have some parents in our division who have started Parent /Student Walks (different parents take turns walking groups of students to school). They stop at individual student's homes and collect a group kids then walk together to school. After school a parent meets them and accompanies them home. I would advertise this in our school division and encourage more parents to get involved.

Our school division has also built bicycle cages at some of our schools to encourage students to ride their bikes to school. Again I would promote this to the community and expand this to having a bicycle cage at all schools. Students participating in a bike riding program would have to pass a Bicycle Safety Course. Finally I would try to have an Active Transportation Awards Program where students could earn certificates for participation. Special school challenges to increase involvement, could also be explored. The purchase and distribution of pedometers might also be considered, to add incentive to the program.”

Scott JOHNSTON – no response at this time

Jennifer LAWSON – no response at this time

Michelle NYHOF FINLEY –

“Once elected, I would place a high priority on active transportation in our communities. I would like to see municipal spending on active transportation focused on improving existing pathways and building new routes (for both walking and cycling) that are of maximum benefit to students.

By increasing access to safe active transportation pathways for students, parents/caregivers will be more secure in knowing that their children can walk or cycle to school and do not need to be driven. Fewer drop-offs by vehicle will reduce traffic around schools which will increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Emissions will also be reduced with fewer idling cars.

Studies have shown that kids that are physically active in the mornings prior to getting to school are more focused and better able to learn.

In addition to improving existing active transportation pathways and the creation of new active transportation routes for students, I would like to create regular programming that helps increase the number of students walking or cycling to school. Initiatives such as cycling or walking school buses should run year-round (weather permitting).

Also of benefit could be bike sharing programs where low-income families can lease or rent a bike (and helmet) for their child for the school year at an affordable rate, similar to how families rent or lease a band instrument.

To help parents/caregivers feel secure in letting their children cycle to school, education in safe cycling should be mandatory for all students and reviewed in each grade at the start of the school year. “

Christina POOLIE – no response at this time

KIRKFIELD - ST. CHARLES WARD

Bruce CHEGUS – no response at this time

Tracey DREXLER –

“Transportation and pedestrian safety around schools is a very important priority to me. I would love to see a system in place in elementary schools where kids are brought out to their parents cars in a drive thru fashion. This would cut down on congestion and illegal parking making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists. I would like to see more adult patrols around to monitor children kind of like walking or biking school buses. I would also like to ensure that kids in Westwood who study French immersion aren't forced to take the city bus to a school on Ness or have their parents drive them. In this day and age unfortunately I would never feel safe having a 10 or 12 year old walk or take public transit to school unsupervised. So to answer your question I would encourage better traffic flow, walking/ biking buddies, and 1 bus instead of many cars driving to French immersion.”

Sandy LETHBRIDGE – no response at this time

Cheryl SMUKOWICH – no response at this time

SILVER HEIGHTS - BOOTH WARD

Craig JOHNSON –

“It is essential that safe schools needs to also include the perception of safety and security for children who walk home from school. There needs to be a reassurance of safety before parents feel secure in allowing their children to walk and bicycle to school. Until parents feel secure, younger children will continue to be escorted to school.

Security is more based on upon perception. While parents walked to school when they were at younger ages that today's students on average do, it is key to have school patrols expanded with middle school kids perhaps helping elementary schools with additional manpower.

Traditionally in Winnipeg Grade 6 children were the bulk of the school patrol system. Why not- Grades 6-8? If parents have the time, perhaps they can be encouraged to walk with their children to school as part of their personal health commitment.

Ironically bicycling to school, though an economical healthy and sound method of transportation is also not an option for many. Part of this is the issue of safety on our streets and security of bicycles. The Division installed several bicycle cages for children at several schools to park their bikes safely and lower the risk of theft. I had proposed doing so for more schools as the cost is minor for a small capital project. What we were discovering was that Middle School usage was low and High School use of bicycles was negligible.

I suggest that more incentives and positive measures are needed to raise bicycle ridership including additional cages and security cameras for bicycles to reduce theft risk. Sturgeon Heights backs on to the Yellow Ribbon trail that Councillor Fielding was responsible for setting up. Opening up the fence to allow a bicycle path inside school property is an idea I would like to explore and to make bicycle routes link to schools with fewer road access is also an idea to improve bicycle safety. In leading the efforts to successfully bring in School Resource Officers, our partnership with Winnipeg Police Service could grow to include greater bicycle safety education and perhaps some enforcement.

How to convince High School students to bike more and not use the car mentality is important - Perhaps metering car parking by students and rewarding bicycle usage. Also when citizenship and environmental education is discussed, focusing on bicycling and walking should be promoted for students within reasonable distance. I have a very local perspective with respect to action to improve our ecology. I believe that positive individual action means a great deal than talking the talk. This means that bicycling or walking longer distances should merit as much as active recycling or planting a garden in greening our planet.

Before my work required me to operate a car, I lived 17 years as an adult without owning a car, using a bike, walking and public transportation. I think that many students, unless their work requires it, should also be encouraged and educated that getting a car is not a rite of passage.”

Craig McGREGOR – no response at this time

Rockford McKAY – no response at this time

John MULLIGAN – no response at this time

Alicja SZARKIEWICZ– no response at this time