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May 31, 2019

Minister Goertzen
Minister of Education and Training
168 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Goertzen:

On behalf of The Sunrise Board of Education we would like to thank the Province for requesting input for the K-12 Comprehensive Educational Review. We would like to use this opportunity to add our voice to the already tens of thousands you have heard, regarding the potential impact the Education Review may have on the most vulnerable stakeholders in this process...our students. A Review of Education in Manitoba is welcomed, especially if it is conducted with the needs of our students in mind. Our board, would like to highlight some specific concerns we feel must be addressed in this review, as they are the most important to our local students and community. We believe:

- **That maintaining the identity of the Sunrise School Division and its students is paramount**, when discussing any sort of educational reform that may involve the amalgamation of diverse regions and communities. If amalgamations are on the table, they should come with no loss of service, nor decrease in resources to the affected community. Efficiencies found should see those resources reinvested into the education of said community, and the uniqueness and needs of the community must not be lost when new budgets and boards are struck.
- **That poverty is a growing issue in our community, and it is a major barrier to equal opportunity of education.** Many of our students come to school hungry, lacking supplies and at varied levels of preparedness. Staff in our region often provide food, school supplies and clothing for students out of their own pockets. Any review of education must enable ALL students to start their learning journey at the same starting line and should acknowledge the financial commitment to do so.

- **That classrooms that continue to increase in size, needs, diversity, and complexity require more commitment from Provincial Leaders.** This may include investing in resources, qualified teachers, educational assistants and leadership, mental health and wellness programs, and curricula that provide the solid and worldly foundation all students deserve and require, in order to succeed in a vastly changing world. We know our students best. We are a part of their battles in an unbalanced system every day. We graciously invite conversation that would aid in our ability to make educational decisions for our students and teachers, based on the culture, identity and unique needs found within the community of the Interlake.
- **The need to Develop a Funding Framework that is fair for all Manitoban's.**

Sincerely,



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Don Nichol
Chairperson
Board of Trustees