

October 8, 2025

Educational Partner,

For the past 32 years, Jason Drysdale has supported colleagues, students, and families with care, integrity, and dedication. His steadfast commitment to public education has never wavered, and his presence and contributions will be deeply missed. As you know, at the end of December, Jason will retire to focus on the pursuits beyond education that bring him joy.

While we're sad to see Jason go, we're delighted to announce the appointment of Ryan Francis as our new assistant superintendent—educational services and planning effective Jan. 5, 2026.

Ryan is currently the principal of John W. Gunn Middle School, but his educational journey began with our division as a substitute teacher in 1998 until he received a permanent position in 2000.

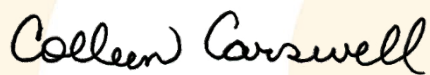
He spent time in various roles at Kildonan-East Collegiate, Robert Andrews Middle School, and River East Collegiate until 2013 when he received his first administrator appointment as vice principal of Donwood School. Ryan then became a vice principal at Bernie Wolfe Community School in 2017, and principal at Bertrun E. Glavin in 2018, before becoming the principal at John W. Gunn in 2021.

"I am truly honoured to be appointed as Assistant Superintendent – educational services and planning. Having spent my entire career with this division, I am deeply grateful for the trust and support of our Board, senior administration, and colleagues," said Francis. "I look forward to continuing to serve our students, staff, and families while working closely with our administrative team and school communities to enhance the supports and opportunities available across the division."

Ryan's experience as a teacher, counsellor, and administrator will serve him well as he brings this career knowledge to the senior administration team.

Please join us in congratulating Ryan as he embarks on this exciting new chapter in his career with River East Transcona School Division.

Sincerely,



Colleen Carswell  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Sandra Herbst  
Superintendent/CEO