

Notice of Approved Petitions for Southwood School

Petition for Religious Exercises - The Hanover School Division Board of Trustees has received a petition requesting that religious exercises be held in Southwood School during the 2017-2018 school year. The petitioners have specified their desire for the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the reading of a Bible passage or story from the Bible. As the petition bears the signatures of parents/guardians representing more than 60 students in the school, the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has authorized religious exercises, as specified above, to be held before the official instructional day from 9:00 a.m. to 9:05 a.m., in a designated common area of the school.

Petition for Religious Instruction - The Hanover School Division Board of Trustees has received a petition requesting that religious instruction be held in Southwood School during the 2017-2018 school year. The petitioners have specified their desire for the Discovery Time program offered by Child Evangelism Fellowship. As the petition bears the signatures of parents/guardians representing more than 25 students in the school, the Board of Trustees of the Hanover School Division has passed the required by-law permitting religious instruction, as specified above, to be offered by volunteers during designated half-hour per week classes.

Parents/guardians who did not sign the original petitions are eligible to join at any time by submitting a signed note to the HSD Board of Trustees (forward directly to Southwood School). The note must indicate the name and grade of student for whom permission to participate is being given. Only children whose parents/guardians signed the original petition, or have subsequently joined, may participate in the exercises and instruction as described above.

As a Manitoba public school division, HSD is obligated to comply with the provisions of The Public Schools Act and provincial guidelines governing the implementation of religious exercises and religious instruction. The Public Schools Act states that public schools must be non-sectarian. Religious exercises and religious instruction in public schools may only be implemented by school boards in a manner consistent with the Public Schools Act and provincial guidelines - after parent/guardian petition is presented to the school board. Such petitions require annual submission, and must be received by the HSD Board of Trustees no later than April 30 (previous to the school year for which the petition applies).

Additional information regarding the Public Schools Act, HSD policies, and provincial guidelines governing these petitions can be viewed on the Southwood School website.



Ron Falk, Board Chair
Hanover School Division



Randy Dueck, Superintendent-CEO
Hanover School Division

Approved May, 2, 2017