



Seven Oaks 2022-2023 Budget Almost Status Quo

Seven Oaks School Division Trustees approved a budget that will reduce teaching staff by eight positions and support staff by twenty positions. The division is budgeting a deficit of \$800,000 and will dip into its limited surplus in order to avoid deeper cuts.

“We are hopeful that we can keep class sizes reasonable and maintain programming for next year” stated Seven Oaks Board Chair Greg McFarlane, “but we really need provincial funding to keep pace with cost of living and enrolment increases. It hasn’t been doing that.”

The budget of \$164 million will support 12,000 students in Seven Oaks twenty-six schools. Seven Oaks will continue to direct its resources to the classroom where they’re needed most. Seven Oaks directs 82.2% of its budget directly to the classroom. The provincial average is 78.8%. That means Seven Oaks directs \$5 million more to the classroom than school divisions on average.

Homeowners will see a property tax reduction of \$60.00 on a average home valued at \$305,700. This is a result of the provinces property tax freeze and of additional properties coming on tax rolls.

“Seven Oaks has been successful at preventing the spread of COVID-19 in its schools but that success has come at a cost to our students’ experience. We are hoping for a return to normal in 2022-2023”, said McFarlane. “We will do everything we can to help those students most affected by the pandemic - our youngest students and our most vulnerable students.”