



2019-2020 Budget

Seven Oaks School Division Trustees passed the division's budget for 2019-2020 last night providing \$152,114,591 for the operation of twenty-five schools and two adult learning centres. This year Seven Oaks Trustees were challenged by a 0% increase in provincial funding, a 2% cap on the amount of money they could levy from taxpayers, crowded schools and continued enrolment growth.

Trustees worked to navigate these challenges and do their best to continue to provide Seven Oaks Schools with the resources they need to serve their students and community. The 2019-2020 budget increases expenditures by a modest 1.55%. "We've done our best to ensure that our budget provides what's needed for our students", said Board Chair Edward Ploszay.

In summary, the 2019-2020 budget

- Will adhere to the province's 2% cap on the special requirement, limiting the mill rate increase to homeowners to 1.99% and only \$8.72 on the average home valued at \$297,300 as a result of budgeted expenditures.

But the Division will pass on a further tax increase of \$35.12 resulting from the provinces withdrawal of Tax Increment Grant funding of \$893,972.

- Reduce costs by freezing expenditure on capital improvements and technology, eliminating two administrative positions, eliminating some contracted services and cancelling some after school programming.
- Seven Oaks Trustees have not raised their indemnities to compensate for federal tax changes as have some other municipal officials.
- Seven Oaks School Division will continue to offer reasonable class sizes, inclusive student services and will continue to limit costs to parents for school supplies, band instruments and lunch supervision.

Seven Oaks will grow by a projected 200 students next year and every year into the future and remains the most crowded school division in the province. Trustees will open an 8 room addition to Amber Trails Community School and begin construction of a new Kindergarten to Grade 5 dual track school this spring.

Said Board Chair Edward Ploszay, "We continue to spend well below the provincial average, but due to our limited commercial assessment our mill rate is higher than it should be. We will continue to press the province to correct this inequity."