



Seven Oaks 2021-2022 Budget. Preserving staffing, class size and supports to students post pandemic.

Seven Oaks School Division Trustees approved a budget for the 2021-2022 school year that preserves staffing, class size and programming while passing on a modest decrease in property taxes.

“Next school year needs to be a year of recovery for students, their families and for our staff who’ve been remarkable in navigating the challenges of the 2020-2021 school year”, stated board chair Greg McFarlane. “We hope that by preserving class size, programming and supports to students that kids can catch up and everyone can catch their breath.”

The budget of \$157.2 million will support 12,054 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 \$5.3 million more to the classroom than school divisions on average.

Homeowners will see a property tax reduction of \$54.75 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.

The budget makes no allowance for continued COVID-19 measures which cost \$7.5 million for the 2020-2021 school year. The division will rely on additional provincial and federal funding should those measures be required next fall.

The budget also assumes that the province will cover additional costs related to collective agreement settlements resulting from recent arbitration awards. “Our priority is to ensure that our students get the attention and support they need to succeed in the classroom, especially after the disruptions and limitations to schooling resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic” said McFarlane. “Now is not the time for cuts.”

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. High School students have attended half time. Students haven’t had access to extra curricular activities, choral singing, band and field trips. “Our youngest students and our most vulnerable students have been affected the most”, said McFarlane. “We want 2021-2022 to be the best year ever.”