

## Seven Oaks Trustee Budget for Enrolment Increase and Freeze Taxes

Seven Oaks School Division Trustees passed a budget for the 2011-2012 school year that both responds to the challenge of unprecedented enrolment growth and freezes its mill rate. The 2011-2012 budget of \$109,123,373 is an increase of 6.85% - driven by an increased enrolment. Seven Oaks enrolment rose by over 900 students in the past two years and is projected to rise by 457 students next September to 10,565.

The division was able to pass its 2011-2012 Budget at its March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting by accepting a Tax Incentive Grant (TIG) of \$5,363,834. Board Chair Evelyn Myskiw acknowledged the efforts of the Minister of Education, "Minister Nancy Allan has listened to our board and responded. This enables us to plan for growth and continue to provide quality education for our children without raising taxes."

The 2011-2012 Budget provides for 36.38 more teachers and 18.6 more support staff to respond to growing enrolment.

The division has submitted notices of intent for new schools in Amber Trails and Riverbend. New school construction is 100% funded by the Province of Manitoba. The board is eagerly awaiting the decision of the Province.

In the interim the Public Schools' Finance Board has approved additional portables at École Leila North Community School (1), École Belmont School (1), Arthur E. Wright Community School (2) and O.V. Jewitt Community School (3) for September 2011.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Brian O'Leary, Superintendent or Mr. Wayne Shimizu, Secretary-Treasurer at 586-8061.