



## Board Office

830 Powers Street  
Winnipeg, MB. R2V 4E7

Telephone: **204.586.8061**

Fax: **204.589.2504**

Monday, September 15, 2024

Subject: Update on Enrolment Concerns at West St. Paul School

Dear West St. Paul School Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. Over the past week, we have heard from many in the community regarding the increasing enrolment and its associated impacts at West St. Paul School. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on this important issue.

The Seven Oaks School Division Board of Trustees has been aware of the significant population growth in the northwest area of Winnipeg, including West St. Paul, and has been actively addressing these challenges. In response to this ongoing growth, the Board of Trustees successfully lobbied the provincial government and received approval in 2019 for the construction of two new K-8 schools, each with a capacity of 700 students. One of these schools is slated to be built in West St. Paul.

In addition to advocating for new school builds, Seven Oaks adjusted the catchment boundaries to help alleviate the impact of enrolment increases at West St. Paul School. We have also been actively pursuing the addition of modular classrooms to accommodate the growing student population. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, the province did not approve the required funding to operationalize modular classrooms this past spring.

However, I am pleased to share that as part of our ongoing advocacy, the Seven Oaks Board of Trustees briefed McPhillips MLA JD Devgan, Kildonan-River East MLA Rachelle Schott, and met with Education Minister Nello Altomare this past week. During this meeting, we reiterated our concerns about enrolment at West St. Paul School, along with our ongoing requests for modular classrooms and authorization to begin the construction of a K-8 school, as previously committed to by the provincial government in 2019.

While no firm commitments have been made yet, we remain hopeful and will continue to advocate for the children of West St. Paul. This includes requesting a meeting with the provincial Treasury Board to emphasize the urgency of initiating a school build in West St. Paul.

Our focus remains on ensuring that all students receive a high-quality education in facilities that meet their needs.

In the meantime, we extend our gratitude to the administration and staff at West St. Paul School for maintaining reasonable class sizes, providing the best learning environments possible, offering extracurricular activities, and making the best use of the resources available to them.

We will continue to keep you updated on our efforts, and I want to thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Ploszay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ed Ploszay  
Seven Oaks School Division Board Chair

## NEW SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

The approval process for school divisions in Manitoba to build new schools involves several key steps and coordination with the provincial government. Here's an overview along with status updates for a K-8 school in West St. Paul.

1. **Needs Assessment:** School divisions conduct a needs assessment to determine the necessity for new school facilities. This includes analyzing enrolment trends, population growth, and current school capacities. **Complete**
2. **Proposal Submission:** Based on the needs assessment, school divisions submit a proposal to the provincial government. This proposal outlines the justification for the new school, including projected enrolment, location, and the type of school (e.g., elementary, middle, or high school) **Complete**
3. **Provincial Review:** The provincial government reviews the proposals. This involves evaluating the need, feasibility, and alignment with provincial education priorities. The review process ensures that the proposed projects are necessary and cost-effective. **Complete**
4. **Approval and Funding:** Once a proposal is approved, the provincial government allocates funding for the project. **Proposal approved (2019). Funding allocation pending.**
5. **Planning and Design:** After funding approval, the school division works with architects and planners to design the new school. **Pending**
6. **Construction:** The construction phase begins once the design is finalized. **Pending**
7. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Throughout the construction process, the provincial government and school division monitor progress to ensure the project stays on schedule and within budget. Regular updates and evaluations help address any issues that arise. **Pending**
8. **Completion and Opening:** Once construction is complete, the new school undergoes final inspections and preparations before opening to students. The school division ensures that all facilities are ready, and that staff are in place to welcome students. **Pending**