

April 5, 2023

Dear Westview Families,

As we begin the final term of this school year, we would like to provide you with a thorough update on Westview School.

Since September, senior administration and the Board of Trustees have been receiving regular updates regarding the restoration of the school. Progress certainly has seemed slow, but the work must be done in a sequential order.

After the fire, the cleanup and removal of debris was extensive. Even the 600 concrete pavers that lined the crawl space were taken away. This meticulous removal of all contents and materials—down to the pencils—is detailed in a 998-page document. What remained was a portion of the original wood structure deemed unaffected by the fire, apart from exposure to smoke. Areas directly impacted by the fire have been upgraded with new structural framing from floor to roof to meet National Building Code requirements.

During this time, we continued to strongly advocate with the insurance companies and others on behalf of Westview, so the work proceeds as quickly as possible.

In the last two weeks, though, incredible and exciting progress has been made and we would like to share that with you!

The affected roof has finally been completed and the focus can now be on the restoration of the building. Two-thirds of the drywall on the ceiling has been installed. In the upcoming weeks, trades will rough in the mechanical and electrical. After that, the walls can be drywalled. Brand-new boilers have already been put in place and a new transformer will be fitted within the month. Next follows the delivery and installation of new windows, and the taping and sanding of the drywall. Once this is complete, the contractors will commence with painting, installation of acoustic ceilings, lighting, etc.

This work is being led by Winnipeg Building and Decorating, the general contractor. Our maintenance department will continue to monitor the progress through the restoration work, placing the interests of Westview at the forefront.

It might seem this process should be moving faster. It certainly has taken an extraordinary amount of time to get to this point; however, the timelines are consistent with what is to be expected after such a major loss.

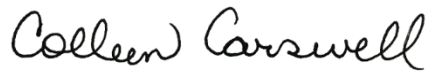
When everything has been completed, the building will have been updated in numerous ways, including an upgraded building envelope (i.e., windows, roof and wall insulation), an upgraded HVAC system (i.e., air conditioning and energy-efficient condensing boilers), upgraded electrical and wiring, and all new finishes and furniture. RETSD wants to ensure the space is entirely safe for the return of our students and staff, *which is projected to be towards the end of 2023.*

In the next several weeks, RETSD will appoint an interim, acting vice-principal for Westview, so Mr. Hirst, the principal, will be able to take part in the acquisition of furniture, books, and supplies for the school. And once the school is ready to open, we will invite the entire Westview community into the building to celebrate not only its restoration, but the resiliency of our students and families.

We know you want your community school back. We know your children have demonstrated strength day after day. We know you have been patient and understanding. We are grateful to you, your children, the staff and administration of Westview and Radisson schools, and the RETSD maintenance department for all that has been done to navigate this difficult time in our community.

We will be certain to update you, once again, when we get closer to completion of this extensive effort. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Westview principal Andrew Hirst at 204.958.6412.

Sincerely,



Colleen Carswell
Chair, Board of Trustees



Sandra Herbst
Superintendent/CEO

P.S. Here are a couple photos that were recently taken inside of Westview School. They provide a glimpse at the extent of the work being done to restore the school for its community.

