

2023 July 14

City of Woodstock
500 Dundas Street
PO Box 1539
Woodstock, ON N4S 0A7

Dear Municipal Partner,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Thames Valley District School Board of Trustees, which passed the following motion at the 2023 June 27 Board meeting:

THAT the Chair write a letter to the municipalities/councils of East Zorra-Tavistock, Zorra, Woodstock, and the County of Oxford requesting they send written correspondence to the Ministry of Education and MPP Hardeman in support of an immediate approval of revised construction plans of the new north Woodstock school to accommodate capacity issues from school community growth since the submission of the original plan.

We kindly request that the municipalities/councils of East Zorra-Tavistock, Zorra, Woodstock and Oxford County send letters to the Ministry of Education and the Honourable Ernie Hardeman MPP in support of an immediate approval of revised construction plans for the new north Woodstock school. The school board submitted the revised plans in hopes of avoiding capacity issues arising from school community growth since the submission of the original plan.

The Ministry of Education originally announced funding for the facility in 2021. The \$17.5-million project, as currently approved, includes space for 660 pupils, as well as a five-room childcare centre for 88 infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

Based on the significant increase in the number of residential units that have been proposed in this area, Thames Valley has submitted a scope change for the project that would increase the size of the school to 856 pupil spaces.

Pending Ministry approvals, Thames Valley is on track to complete construction of the school by 2026/27. We have completed Design Committee Meetings, a Virtual Community Information Session about the project, and have acquired a site for the facility on 717 Knights Lane, Woodstock.

Once again, thank you for using your collective voice to advocate for the best possible future for the new north Woodstock elementary school. Thames Valley is profoundly grateful for the continued collaboration and support of our municipal partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "L. Pizzolato".

Lori-Ann Pizzolato
Chair of the Board
Thames Valley District School Board