

Angus McKay to get gym after all

A delegation of trustees from the River East school board met last Wednesday morning with officials of the Public Schools Finance Board and convinced the board to change its mind and allocate funds for a gymnasium at Angus McKay and for work on Robert Andrews school.

A delegation of trustees Allen Rouse and Bryon Peterson, superintendent Dr. D.A. Downie and secretary-treasurer of the division Nick Solilak appealed an earlier decision by the provincially-appointed board which denied the school board the funds it required to undertake construction at the two schools.

Residents who lived near the Angus McKay school were told earlier this year that the gym would be built and ready to use this term

but, because funds were refused the construction hasn't yet begun.

Unless school boards obtain required funds for construction from the province's Public Schools Finance Board, they must dip into special levy funds for money. These funds are obtained through increasing property taxes.

River East division has had to appeal several PSFB decisions on funding in the past year especially. Some trustees wondered aloud if the granting of the appeal wasn't really an about face in PSFB policy, however Allen Rouse, who headed the delegation as then-chairman of the board, warned trustees not to be misled.

"I think it was our presentation that did it," he said, and other members of the delegation agreed.