

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

November 4, 2020



*Trustees: (back row) Connie Huelsman, Vice Chair Melissa Copley, Allan Tarnoczi, Superintendent Kurt Sacher, Gord Kerr, Joe-Anne Knispel-Matejka (front row) Chair Holly Bilton, Colleen Butler, Sherry Cooper, Trudy James*

## **Appointment of Returning Officer:**

The Board appointed Bonnie Milman as the Returning Officer for the 2021 Election. Mrs. Milman spent many years serving the Board as an administrative support prior to her retirement, and is very familiar with the election process. The work of the Returning Officer will begin on January 1, in preparation for the Board of Trustees election, which takes place in conjunction with the provincial municipal election on October 18, 2021. Information for community residents interested in the possibility of running for School Board Trustee will be available on the website early in January.

## **COVID-19 Update:**

Superintendent Kurt Sacher provided an update on the current environment in our schools which, in general, remains calm and engaging in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions. There is a level of stress reported among our school staff, given uncertainties around the global situation and their priority to meet the needs of students. Division staff have a high level of concern for one another, and teachers are dedicated to furthering their instructional practices through the Google platform to move learning forward.

## **Provincial Achievement Tests:**

The Board passed a motion giving the Superintendent the authority to not proceed with administration of Provincial Achievement Tests for the current 2020-2021 school year. The Board Chair will write a letter to Alberta Education indicating the division's strong support for the Provincial Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams to be administered to students in the future. Chinook's Edge will be utilizing other assessment tools to collect achievement data.

## **Technology Report to the Board:**

Associate Superintendent of System Services, Karyn Barber, provided a report to the Board which outlines the current work and priorities of technology support to schools and departments. Highlights of the extensive report included information on the shift of focus to the Google platform and the integration of technology into effective classroom practices, risk mitigation involving student security, data security and privacy, general technology support, budget updates, and the continued success through strong partnerships with other school divisions in the province.

*...continued to Page 2*

# Celebrations 2020

The Board congratulated retired Associate Superintendent of Learning Services, Lissa Steele, on being named the 2020 Roy E. Cope Award recipient. The award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the educational well-being of students in the division. Lissa had a profound impact on quality learning and the caring culture in schools during her 30 year career with Chinook's Edge. Her intellect and thoughtful practice launched many important initiatives in the division, including: the Quality Learning Environment, the Literacy Framework, and the Students Matter Committee.



**Roy E. Cope Award:** Dr. Lissa Steele is congratulated by Chair Holly Bilton and Superintendent Kurt Sacher.



## **ATA Induction Ceremony:**

Trustees were pleased to have the opportunity to share in a small gathering, as they joined the Alberta Teachers' Association Local #17 for the annual ATA Induction ceremony. Pictured at left: Superintendent Kurt Sacher, Board Chair Holly Bilton, Associate Superintendent People Services Ray Hoppins, ATA Local #17 President Trevor Sanche and Vice President Dave Dale. Pictured at right: New teachers stand to take the ATA Oath.

***Under the Education Act, School Board responsibilities are to govern, advocate and promote. For more information please visit About the Board.***

**The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, December 9, 2020.**

*MEDIA for more information please contact:*

**Kurt Sacher, Superintendent**  
(403) 227-7070

**Sandy Bexon, Communications**  
(403) 227-7085