

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

December 9, 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*

## **COVID-19 Update:**

Superintendent Kurt Sacher provided an update, which indicates the recent Grade 7-12 shift to online learning from home has been very positive. Student attendance remains fairly consistent, and the move to online teaching and learning on the Google platform has been smooth as students and teachers/staff are now well versed in the technology. The Central Office team has assisted a number of schools in responding to positive cases in their schools, as well as certain complicating factors when a bus student is identified as a positive case. It is clear that accurate seating plans and attendance - both in classes and on buses - have been vital in supporting prompt communication to individuals who are identified as close contacts. Looking into January, the provincial government has determined students in K-6 will join those in Grade 7-12 in online learning from home for the week of January 4-8. Trustees thanked everyone involved for their patience and diligence in moving forward in uncertain times.

## **Fall Budget Update:**

Treasurer Susan Roy provided a fall budget update, which shows student enrolment has come in lower than was forecast in the spring as is the case with many school divisions in Alberta. As the new provincial funding model is based on a three year enrolment average, the pandemic has created certain unknowns that will become clear with the spring provincial budget.

## **Transportation Quarterly Update:**

The Board accepted a written report, which indicates a number of areas where Transportation costs came in lower than the amount originally budgeted. This includes: bus parts which came in lower than expected over the past two years; diesel prices which have remained consistent at a lower amount than budgeted; and a reduction in school bus routes in the division from 123 to 116 routes in an effort to ease overall costs. The Transportation budget is operating with a deficit, which has been identified as a key concern by Trustees. The Board is pleased that focused effort and attention is having a noticeable impact.

## **Facilities and Maintenance:**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Facilities and Maintenance Committee, and thanked staff in that department for their extraordinary efforts to meet the extra demands that COVID-19 has presented in schools and facilities throughout the division. This team has supplied and installed large amounts of Personal Protective Equipment, and have been required to conduct deep-cleaning services at multiple locations.

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### **Locally developed course:**

The Board approved the locally developed course "*Leadership, Character & Social Responsibility 15, 25, 35*", which will now be available to high schools throughout the division.

### **Annual Education Results Report accepted:**

Following an extensive presentation at the Education Committee by the Superintendentcy Team, the Board formally accepted the Annual Education Results Report and the Three Year Education Plan (2020-2023). The reports are being filed with Alberta Education and posted to the website.

### **CASS Scholarship:**

Two student scholarships were provided to Chinook's Edge, as a gesture of thanks from the College of Alberta School Superintendents for the time and effort Superintendent Kurt Sacher had put into his role as President in 2018-2019. The CASS Leadership scholarships, which required four Grade 12 classes with averages above 80% (which both students far surpassed), were presented to:

- **Brianna Braybrook**, a graduate from Sundre High last spring, is currently studying at SAIT. She lead many initiatives while at school, and participated in a Physics research project at the Canadian Light Source facility. Brianna is interested in energy efficiency initiatives as part of her future career.

- **Kyra Kjargaard**, a graduate from Olds High School last spring, is currently taking her first year of Engineering at the University of Calgary. She also has an interest in a future career in the energy field, and also participated in multiple clubs and sports teams both in school and in the community.

### **Trustee readings:**

A number of Trustees have been invited to provide a recording of themselves reading a Christmas story, so that schools can share the video as part of their virtual holiday celebrations with students. Trustees appreciated being asked and are pleased to participate.



***The Board extends very best wishes this holiday season to everyone in our school communities where goodwill, compassion and hard work has ensured Chinook's Edge is the school division where students come first - even during a global health crisis.***

***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 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, January 13, 2020.**

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