

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

January 13, 2021



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

Career High Schools relocating to traditional school buildings:

The Board of Trustees passed a motion that will see students and staff from Chinook's Edge career high schools relocated to their neighbouring traditional high school next fall, with the exception of Gasoline Alley Career High which will move in the fall of 2022. The career high culture and approach to programming will remain, but will be housed within the local high school. The Board passed the motion after extensive research and discussion made it clear that career high students would be best served if their programming was delivered under the umbrella of course options, teacher specializations, staff supports, and fully equipped facilities that a traditional high school provides for optimal learning. For more information, please refer to [this FAQ document](#).

COVID-19 Update:

Superintendent Kurt Sacher provided an update, outlining the provincial restrictions that schools and departments continue to adhere to. Trustees heard many reports of students being very happy to be returning to in-school learning. The provincial government recently provided additional personal protective equipment, including reusable masks and hand sanitizer.

First quarter financial report:

Treasurer Susan Roy provided a financial report for September 1 to November 30, 2020, which was closely aligned with budget expectations. There are certain items specific to COVID-19 that have financial implications, such as costs of PPE supplies and staff absences due to isolation and illness. However, substitute teacher costs are also down substantially due to the periods of online learning. The \$3.9 million Federal government grant provided in the fall is helping to offset these COVID-specific expenses.

Attendance data:

Karyn Barber (Associate Superintendent of System Services) provided an overview of student attendance (grade 7-12) for the month of December while learning was taking place online. The average student attendance across the division was 91 percent, which is comparable to the same time period last year. There was a slight dip in attendance during the first week of December, when schools were making the adjustment to online learning and students were becoming familiar with the expectations involved with the robust learning taking place online.

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Success in Math:

Jason Drent (Associate Superintendent of Learning Services) and Sandi Berg (Learning Services Coordinator) provided a detailed report on numeracy work underway in Chinook's Edge. This multi-layered approach to math uses data to identify where each grade 2-10 student is in their math understanding, and specific strategies are mapped out and supports provided. Teachers and staff are also supported in their teaching practice to ensure math is accessible and engaging to all students. Staff and students are excited about this work underway in Chinook's Edge.

Staff Health and Wellness:

Trustees wanted to ensure staff throughout the division are reminded of the Chinook's Edge priority for staff wellness, as they continue their important work with students during this time of pandemic. It was reported that resources and supports for staff, through the division's Staff Health and Wellness, is regularly communicated and these services are being used as needed.

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, February 10, 2021.

MEDIA for more information please contact:

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