

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 13, 2020



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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Trustees and Central Office staff have had several opportunities through various provincial affiliations to discuss relaunch strategies for next school year. Protocols and other details are being developed at the provincial level and further information will be provided to students, staff and families as it becomes available. "I know the entire Board is grateful for the extra effort and care that has been evident among staff, students and families over the last several weeks," said Allan Tarnoczi, Board Chair. "While we have seen incredible learning occur online, it will always be our belief that the learning and developmental needs of our students are best served when we are safely able to interact face to face. We all look forward to that time when we can be together with our students in schools."

Adjusting last school day for students: The last day for students this school year will be June 19 - one week earlier than originally scheduled. This time will allow school staff to prepare for the completion of multiple tasks, including final reporting and other administrative duties which became more complicated because of the pandemic. This modified timeline will also allow families time to safely interact with schools on an intermittent basis, so that items can be picked up and returned prior to the end of the school year. School staff will remain working on final year-end duties the week of June 22-29.

Recognition of Student Excellence: The Board congratulated two students and their teachers for the amazing achievement of attaining 100% on January Diploma Exams: Brianna Thompson from Hugh Sutherland School for Biology 30 with teacher Rob Frieman; and Sara Johannson from Spruce View School for Math 30-2 with teacher Richard Dunnigan.

Penhold Library Joint Use Agreement: The Board is pleased to be able to continue the shared use of the library/learning commons space through the successful negotiation of a new agreement between the Town of Penhold and Chinook's Edge.

Carstairs Elementary School construction project: The Board received an update on the school expansion project, which is nearing the end of the design phase and expected to head into the construction phase in late summer/early fall.

Roy E. Cope Award: Each year, the Board of Trustees can present the Roy E. Cope Award to any person who in the opinion of the Board has made a significant contribution to the educational welfare of students. This award is announced at the Board Meeting at which the decision is made, and formally recognized at the Board's Staff Celebrations event in the fall.

Dr. Lissa Steele named Roy E. Cope Award recipient: Lissa Steele has made a profound impact on the quality learning environment and the caring culture in schools throughout Chinook's Edge in her 30 year career with the division. More information on Page 2.

...continued to Page 2

Dr. Lissa Steele named Roy E. Cope Award recipient (continued)...

Lissa shared her love of learning as an English teacher, a Vice Principal, Curriculum Coordinator and Associate Superintendent. Her deep research and development of the Quality Learning Environment and the Literacy Framework, her collaboration on the LST approach to supporting students and her ability to launch the division's highly successful Students Matter Committee are just a few of the countless examples of Lissa's influence. She launched the division's New Teacher Orientation and Teacher Mentorship program, which is broadly considered to be one of the most extensive programs of its kind in Alberta.

Bruce Moltzan Scholarship: This scholarship is awarded to the student achieving the highest marks in the division, based on the diploma exam average marks in four of the following courses: English 30-1, Social 30-1, Math 30-1, Chemistry 30, Physics 30 and Biology 30. This year there was a three way tie and the following students will each receive \$750: Davina Choi (Sundre High), Rexelle Asis (Olds High) and Laura Rib (Innisfail High). This is the final year the Bruce Moltzan Scholarship will be awarded, as the funds have now been depleted.

Pre-Kindergarten Program: As the funding model for this program for three and four year-olds has changed, Chinook's Edge has had to modify the approach in the school communities where this is offered (Sylvan Lake, Penhold, Olds, Didsbury, Innisfail and Sundre). Pre-Kindergarten addresses specific student needs, such as speech language or social development, and provides support to better prepare young children for success in Kindergarten. As well, other children from the community have traditionally been able to join these classes as space permits, and this provides successful role-modeling for others. The Board approved a motion to place a \$200/month fee for community children who do not qualify for other funding and are eligible to attend Pre-Kindergarten programming in Chinook's Edge.

School Bus purchases: The Board awarded the bus RFP to Western Canada Bus and will proceed with the purchase of six new buses. As well, an RFP was awarded to Dynamic Specialty Vehicles for the purchase of one new special needs bus.

Board Boundary Bylaw: The Board passed a bylaw that aligns the Chinook's Edge wards with the school attendance boundaries.

Locally developed courses: The Board approved an extensive list of locally developed courses, which is a routine reauthorization process as most are already on the roster for students to access. A new Astronomy course is now included. Course outlines can be viewed on the Chinook's Edge website.

***Under the School 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, May 27, 2020.

MEDIA for more information please contact:

Kurt Sacher, Superintendent
(403) 227-7070

Sandy Bexon, Communications
(403) 227-7085