



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 21, 2017 Board Meeting

Trustees: (back row) Sherry Cooper, Ron Fisher (Vice Chair), Colleen Butler (Chair), Superintendent Kurt Sacher, Connie Huelsman
(front row) Sheldon Ball, Trudy James, Jackie Swainson, Holly Bilton, Gordon Kerr

Budget 2017-2018:

The Chinook's Edge Board of Education approved a \$129 million balanced budget for the 2017/2018 school year, with uncomfortably low operating reserves expected to increase by \$115,000 and capital reserves by \$660,000. This budget is based on predictions that student enrolment will grow by about 0.6%. The division is faced with subsidizing the transportation budget by \$800,000, by using a combination of instructional revenue and capital reserves.

Impact of carbon tax:

The Board was provided an update on the impact of the carbon tax on fuel expenses. There is a significant impact on several budget lines in both Transportation and Facilities departments. In an effort towards continued vigilance, the Board requested a specific carbon tax report as part of the annual report.

Letter of concern to Minister of Education:

The Board passed a motion to accept revisions to the 'School Fees Administrative Procedure 3-17' and accepted a 269 page document involving School Fee Schedules from every school in the division, as was required by Alberta Education. The Board acknowledged the enormous efforts of the Finance department and school office staff in completing the unexpected and extensive documentation on extremely tight timelines. The Board discussed their frustration about the unprecedented depth and frequency of reporting requirements, and voiced adamant concern about the toll this is taking on personnel in Chinook's Edge and across the province. At a time of diminishing resources, the increased reporting obligation has resulted in approximately two full weeks of staff time in the Finance Department to meet the new monthly reporting expectations, as well as the additional extra reporting on such items as the School Fee Schedules. Given that these ramped-up reports also require extra time for office staff in each school, the Board is becoming increasingly concerned that the reporting distraction may begin to take resources out of the classroom in an effort to comply.

Bus purchase:

As part of their responsibility towards fleet renewal and following an RFP process, the Board approved the purchase of seven new school buses at a cost of approximately \$103,000 per bus.

Locally developed courses:

The Board approved the following locally developed courses: Astronomy 15 and French Vernacular 10.

Trip Requests:

The Board approved the following trip requests: H.J. Cody School to New York during Spring Break 2018; Sundre High School band tour to California during Spring Break 2018.

Staff recognition:

The Board congratulated Michele Brewster on her retirement from the role of Program Director for the Personal Empowerment and Employment Program.

Michele played a key role over the last 22 years in the success of individuals by building a strong connection with them and getting them back on track through the federal program. The Board voiced appreciation for Michele's devotion and hard work, which has impacted under-employed youth who

have been able to discover their abilities and potential. Grants for the program have decreased, and Chinook's Edge will conclude its involvement with the Personal Empowerment and Employment Program at the end of this school year.



This was the final Board Meeting for this school year. Trustees thanked everyone in our Chinook's Edge school communities for working to make this a successful year in our division. The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 6, 2017.

For more information please contact:
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