



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 22, 2016 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 2016-2017**

The Chinook's Edge Board of Education approved a \$128 million balanced budget for the 2016-2017 school year, with operating reserves expected to remain stable at below three percent of the total budget. This budget is based on predictions that student enrolment will grow by less than one percent, and contingencies have been built into the budget in the event that enrolment comes in less than expected due to economic uncertainty in the province. The division is faced with subsidizing the Transportation budget by \$561,000, by using a combination of budget cuts within the Transportation department and the allocation of other revenue. Another serious implication to this budget is the new provincial Carbon Tax the division will be faced with beginning on January 1, 2017. The direct impact on the budget for the eight months ending August 31, 2017 is \$70,000 for fuel and natural gas—or an approximate \$105,000 for an equivalent 12 month period. The Carbon Tax will also impact the cost of most other goods and services that Chinook's Edge acquires, although the amount of this impact is unknown. These external uncertainties, coupled with the need to source revenue from other division budgets to subsidize the Transportation budget, is a concern to the Board.

### **Benalto community application**

The Board of Education reviewed an application from a Benalto parent committee which outlined their plans to form an alternative program at the site. The Board acknowledged the attention to detail and the heartfelt desire to retain the Benalto School site as an educational centre, but denied the request for the alternative program. The Board's intention was to move swiftly with this decision, so that the committee could move forward with the required next steps in an Alberta Education process for a charter school application which requires that the Board of Education overseeing the site be approached first. Chair Colleen Butler indicated that the Board will provide the necessary documentation by the end of today's date.

### **Sale of Benalto School property**

The Board approved the sale of the Benalto School and school property to Red Deer County, pending Ministerial approval.

### **Olds Track Property**

The Board accepted a tender from Span West Ventures to purchase the Olds Track Property, subject to Ministerial approval.

### **Trip Requests**

The Board approved in principle a request for an Olds High School trip to New York in April 2017.

### Superintendent's Evaluation

The Board has completed an annual evaluation of Superintendent Kurt Sacher, which provides extensive evidence of his strong role as the educational leader of this division. The Board Chair compiled an Executive Summary, which is available on the Board section of the division website.

### High School Completion Rates

The Board heard a presentation from Associate Superintendent Karyn Barber, which included detailed data over the past 10 years. Most recent data shows that 81.2 percent of Chinook's Edge students complete high school in three years, which is nearly five percent above provincial average. Ms. Barber highlighted several strategies for continued success, including high school redesign, response to intervention across all grades, focus on data at Instructional Leadership visits to schools, Dual Credit programming, blended programs with Career High Schools.

### External Transportation Audit

The Board directed the Superintendent to determine costs of a potential external audit of the Transportation Department, in an effort to determine further efficiencies.

### Special Guests

The Board congratulated two staff from the Bus Maintenance Department for their success at a provincial Mechanics' Skills Competition, where Jeff Neufeld (Bus Shop Foreman) placed third and Jamie Francis (Bus Shop Mechanic) placed fourth in the province.

The Board congratulated Olds High School teacher, Angela Dezall, for being chosen as one of 20 Alberta Education Excellence in Teaching Award recipients. Ms. Dezall was accompanied by Principal Tom Christensen, whose support and mentorship of her career was also acknowledged.

The Board congratulated Patty Thompson, Assistant Director of Transportation, for achieving her Certified Director of Pupil Transportation. Ms. Thompson is one of only five people in the country achieving this level. It was also acknowledged that she has been named Vice President of the Student Transportation Association of Alberta.

Grade 12 Sundre High School student Kate Jackson, accompanied by teacher/Leo Club Advisor Ryan Beck, presented her experience of attending the 'Lions Day at the United Nations' in New York. The Board congratulated Kate for her enthusiasm and leadership.



**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. An organizational meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 7, 2016.**

*For more information please contact:*

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