



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Feb. 10, 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

Gasoline Alley Career High School

The Board received an update on the positive move of the 'Red Deer area' career high school to its permanent new location on Leva Avenue in Gasoline Alley, including an increase in student enrolment numbers. Construction costs came in significantly lower than expected, due primarily to decreased labour costs as a result of the economic downturn, and the Board made a motion to direct those funds to support expansion and modernization of the Sylvan Lake Career High site. There are five career high schools in Chinook's Edge which, along with the Sundre Learning Centre, provide a flexible approach to high school programming to students in the division, as well as adult learners.

Pre-Kindergarten Programming

The Board received an update on a possible expansion of Pre-Kindergarten programming in Chinook's Edge, which provides an impactful approach to young children who become better prepared for Kindergarten and school success. Pre-Kindergarten is provided through a self-sufficient funding model and is offered in communities as needs are identified. It is currently provided in École Steffie Woima Elementary School in Sylvan Lake, Jessie Duncan Elementary School in Penhold, École Olds Elementary School, and Ross Ford Elementary School in Didsbury. The anticipated expansion involves École John Wilson Elementary School in Innisfail and the addition of a second class at Ross Ford Elementary.

Central Alberta Regional Science Fair

The Board made a motion to contribute \$1,700 to the Central Alberta Regional Science Fair in March, which historically involves many students from Chinook's Edge schools.

Benalto School Review Committee

Superintendent Kurt Sacher provided an update on the process pertaining to Benalto School. He acknowledged the hard work being undertaken by parents and community members in an effort to make student enrolment numbers more viable, and reported on a recent meeting of the Benalto School Review Committee. A public meeting will be held at Elks Hall on the Benalto Agricultural Grounds on March 3 at 7:00, to provide an opportunity for members of the Benalto community and neighbouring communities to discuss various aspects of the school's operations. Information collected through this public meeting will be submitted for consideration at the regular meeting of the Chinook's Edge Board of Education on April 6, 2016, at which time the Board will make a final decision regarding the future of Benalto School.



Celebrating 100 percent—Cremona School student Emma Allen, and her teacher Darren Jacobsen, were congratulated for Emma's achievement of a rare 100 percent mark on Part A of the English 30-2 diploma exam. The Cremona team was photographed with Board Chair Colleen Butler and Superintendent Kurt Sacher.

Joint Transportation Agreement

The Board approved the Joint Transportation Agreement with Red Deer Catholic Regional Division for the 2016-2017 school year. The cooperative busing plan involves the communities of Olds and Innisfail, and results in a significant positive impact on the transportation budget in both divisions. Trustees discussed the substantial deficit of \$700,000 that still exists in the Transportation Budget and considered several details in an attempt to mitigate costs. The Board referred this topic to the Education Committee Meeting, allowing for time to gather information for a full discussion on future planning around this ongoing shortfall in Transportation funding.

The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 9, 2016.

For more information please contact:

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