



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 7, 2015 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

### Benalto School:

The Board announced a Notice of Motion that at the April 6, 2016 Board of Education meeting they will introduce a motion to consider the closure of Benalto School at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The Board made a motion to strike a review committee for Benalto School, which will involve Trustees Jackie Swainson and Sheldon Ball, the Superintendent or designate, at least one member of the school's self-managed team, and a minimum of one member from the Benalto School Council.

### Transportation Update:

Associate Superintendent Shawn Russell provided a quarterly update:

- Fleet Renewal: Seven new buses have been ordered from \$700,000 that was earmarked from reserves for this purchase this year, at a cost of approximately \$98,500 each. The remaining \$8,000 was directed towards the purchase of a specialized accessible small bus for Horizon School.

- Capacity and Ride Times: Overall ridership throughout the division is considered good, although a few buses are approaching maximum capacity. The majority of bus ride times are under the threshold that the Board has mandated as acceptable, however there are several routes in Sundre that exceed the ride times of 1 hour, 30 minutes and will be addressed immediately. There are five other bus routes that are on a 'watchlist' regarding their ride times.

- Budget: Although the Provincial Budget has not yet been presented, the Chinook's Edge Transportation budget is facing a deficit of approximately \$100,000. Providing urban busing is greatly impacting the budget and the Board considered a number of options to continue their attempts to offset these costs. The Board will continue to investigate a number of options and will discuss the Transportation budget again at the November Board Meeting.

### Recognition of Excellence:

The Board congratulated Megg Whyllie from Sundre High School for her achievement of 100 percent on the Biology 30 Diploma Exam. Megg, who was Sundre High's Valedictorian at last spring's graduation, was accompanied by teacher Kevin Challoner and Principal Scott Sanders—and by her proud mom!



### Meeting with MLAs:

At the September 23 Education Committee Meeting, Trustees met with the MLAs who represent the three constituencies within the Chinook's Edge School Division boundaries: Don MacIntyre (MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake), Jason Nixon (MLA for Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre) and Nathan Cooper (MLA for Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills). The meeting was considered highly effective, with discussion focused primarily on budget priorities.



### Staff compensation:

The Board approved a two percent increase for all non-teaching staff in Chinook's Edge, which includes Administrative Support, Educational Assistants, Family School Wellness Workers, Bus Drivers, Executive staff, Maintenance and Mechanics staff, Custodians, and Finance, Technology and Library staff.

### Community Learning Campus (CLC):

Student demand for dual credit courses is strong and becoming increasingly successful through this CLC joint partnership between Chinook's Edge and Olds College. The CLC is hosting a provincial Dual Credit Symposium on October 29. The Board discussed the CLC 'Year in Review' document which outlines many student and programming successes (available at [www.communitylearningcampus.ca](http://www.communitylearningcampus.ca)).

### Keynote address:

The Board congratulated Superintendent Kurt Sacher, who was invited to provide the keynote address at a recent Alberta Education 'High School Redesign' event, where he spoke to 400 delegates from across the province.

**The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 4, 2015.**

*For more information please contact:*

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