

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 23, 2021



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

**Board self-evaluation** - Trustees each commented on key components of their newly established Board self-evaluation process. Overall, the focus on governance and policy helped guide the school division through a challenging year of moving forward during COVID-19. Trustees have positive relationships with stakeholders and with each other, as they work respectfully and positively together for students.

**Superintendent evaluation** - Following an internal evaluation, the Board commended Superintendent Kurt Sacher for his efforts to build relationships, his COVID-19 response, and his ability to collaborate and share best practises with provincial organizations and school divisions throughout Alberta. Superintendent Sacher voiced his appreciation for the high level of support the Board provides to the leadership team and to Chinook's Edge as a whole.

**Learning Recovery Plan** - The Learning Services Team is in the process of gathering current information among Grade 1-3 students, to assess specific supports individual students may require for the start of next year. Existing student supports in the division, along with previously announced provincial funding, is expected to make a significant impact on any learning gaps resulting from COVID-related disruptions.

**Third Quarter Financial Report** - Treasurer Susan Roy provided a report covering September 1 to May 31, with explanation of certain variances that surfaced as the division progressed through the pandemic. For instance, such things as pandemic-specific costs and rebates for transportation fees for the time of periodic school closures are not part of a typical budget. Treasurer Roy indicated that overall the budget is on track with expectations, and details will become part of the August 31 year-end financial statement.

**COVID-19 update** - Shawn Russell, Associate Superintendent of Corporate Services, indicated the number of positive cases in the school division has decreased dramatically, in line with provincial numbers. The Central Office Team will be reviewing the COVID-19 situation late in the summer, to determine whether such things as school field trips can expand beyond the local community and involve a greater number of students beyond the single class cohort. The Board and Central Office Team are hopeful the new school year will return to normal or near-normal activity, if the current Alberta Health Services plans on lifting restrictions continue to progress as expected

**New President of ATA Local #17** - The Board and Superintendent look forward to working with Shevryn Deschambault, a teacher at Jessie Duncan School in Penhold, who is the new President of the local Alberta Teachers Association. Outgoing President Trevor Sanche was thanked for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the teachers he represented and his exceptional relationship-building skills.

**Locally developed courses** - The Board re-affirmed the annual approval of an extensive list of locally developed courses, which can be viewed at [this link](#).

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**Collaboration** - As part of their regular business, the Board of Trustees attends periodic meetings with the municipal governments in the communities served by Chinook's Edge. This screenshot captured a recent virtual meeting with the Town of Olds Council.

**New relocatables at École Olds High School** - The Board approved the use of \$150,000 from capital reserves to construct a link from Ecole Olds High to the newly announced relocatables that will be installed over the summer months to create additional student spaces.

**Matters Committees** - The Teachers Matter, Students Matter and Parents Matter committees held the year's last successful virtual meetings.

**Congratulations to retirees** - The Superintendent has been making virtual connections with each Chinook's Edge staff person who is retiring at the end of this school year, to conduct exit interviews with each retiree and to remind them they will be honoured at Celebrations on October 21, 2021.

**Appreciation:**

The Board voiced heartfelt appreciation to staff and students for their efforts and commitment to learning during this challenging year, and thanked parents for their dedication to the unprecedented level of responsibility for their children's learning.

***Under the Education Act, School Board responsibilities are to govern, advocate and promote. For more information please visit About the Board.***

***Trustees thanked everyone in our Chinook's Edge school communities for working to ensure this school year was a success in our division.***

***The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.***

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