

# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

October 6, 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*

## **COVID-19 Update:**

The Board of Trustees discussed at length the provincial government's October 5th communication, particularly as it pertains to Alberta Education and Alberta Health's 'renewed call to all school authorities' to develop policies that require proof of vaccination or negative Covid testing for any adult who enters a school. In an effort to balance safety while respecting personal decisions, the Board has directed the Superintendent to gather additional information. This will include such items as determining the specific guidance and support the government will be providing, the expected timing for additional vaccine options, privacy considerations, the policy changes that would be required, and the division's ability to maintain operations. The Board voiced deep appreciation to all staff, for their strong adherence to following AHS guidelines regarding masking, distancing, and staying home when sick. The Board continues to strongly encourage staff to be fully vaccinated and continue taking all steps available to them to protect the safety of students and each other.

## **Transportation Quarterly Report:**

The Board reviewed a report which included information that fuel costs came in approximately \$200,000 below budget, although the overall Transportation budget still has a shortfall of over \$500,000. The fuel cost savings will help cover shortfalls in other transportation areas such as supporting the bus radio/GPS/camera purchases. Chinook's Edge runs a fleet of 103 buses that drive an average of 210,622 km per year. It was also reported there was a smooth transition with the new Director of Transportation, Corinne Varga.

## **Truth and Reconciliation Week:**

Superintendent Kurt Sacher reported on a successful week of focused learning, when Associate Superintendent Jason Drent and the Learning Services team ensured authentic and meaningful work in schools around Indigenous Education. The Board voiced appreciation for this important work in schools. Moving forward, the September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation will continue to be a day of reflection in Chinook's Edge, when schools and offices will be closed.

## **Outside appointments extended:**

The Board extended the appointment of the firm MNP as Division Auditors for one year ending August 31, 2022, and extended the banking services of Servus Credit Union for one year ending July 31, 2022.

...continued to Page 2

**September 30th student enrolment numbers:**

Trustees reviewed student enrolment as at the end of September, which are the formal numbers that are filed with Alberta Education. The total number of students in Chinook's Edge schools is 11,055, up slightly from 10,806 last year.

**Farewell to long-serving Trustees:**

The Board of Trustees paid tribute to retiring Trustees Colleen Butler (Delburne/Elnora), Trudy James (Olds/Reed Ranch) and Allan Tarnoczi (Sundre), and thanked them for their tremendous work in education and their care for students throughout their careers.

**The Trustee Election takes place on Monday, October 18. Election results will be posted on the evening of October 18 after the polls close, and the new Board will be sworn in at an Organizational Meeting on October 27.**

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

**The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 10, 2021.**

*MEDIA for more information please contact:*

**Kurt Sacher, Superintendent**  
(403) 227-7070

**Sandy Bexon, Communications**  
(403) 227-7085