



# Board eNews ... issued November 29, 2023

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Chinook's Edge trustees [recently attended](#) the Alberta School Boards Association meeting in Edmonton, where 61 publicly funded boards meet, in part, to develop advocacy to the provincial government on behalf of school divisions. In advance of that meeting, Chinook's Edge trustees developed a brief, visual [advocacy document](#) that outlines key priorities that trustees will use in their conversations with local and provincial leaders.

While attending the ASBA meeting, trustees were [thrilled to celebrate Amy Severtson](#), a teacher at Bowden Grandview School, who was recognized as one of six exceptional first year teachers in the province.

During the [November 14, 2023 Board meeting](#), trustees approved capital funding of up to \$90,000 to purchase furniture at Westglen School in Didsbury that will go in four relocatable classrooms being placed at the school.

Trustees were honored to participate in [Remembrance Day ceremonies](#) in their communities on and prior to November 11th. Trustees are pleased to be a part of the events created by staff and students, focused on remembering and reflecting on the sacrifices of individual Canadians in times of conflict.

The Board is pleased to support efforts in Chinook's Edge to forward the work of Truth and Reconciliation. Recently trustee Linda Wagers, Chinook's Edge staff, and Indigenous partners [visited key geographical locations](#) in the division to discuss and deepen understanding about Indigenous use of the land and history in this region. The visits are a part of the work underway to create a new land acknowledgement. The division anticipates completion of a new statement, reflecting local context, by the end of the school year.

The Board recently received a report outlining the achievements of the [Youth Empowerment & Support \(YES\) program](#) in the division's schools. Through the YES program, almost 7,400 students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 have access to proactive programming that helps students learn a common language about mental health, and to strengthen their social skills. In addition, YES Success Coaches also form clubs and groups with the intent of providing positive opportunities for students.

The Board is interested in and supportive of schools as they create a variety of opportunities to build the social and emotional wellbeing of students. One recent example is at Spruce View School [where students are serving as mentors for senior citizens](#) seeking to better understand technology. [The program that began in September is bridging technology gaps](#), and bringing generations together in increased understanding. Also, it is increasing a sense of community belonging.

Another example is a small but mighty [journaling club](#) that recently got underway at Sundre High School. Students are focused on prompts that help them reflect on what they are grateful for, with an intent for students to build healthy habits for positive thinking. The Board thanks staff for helping students develop strong social emotional skills.

The Board was very pleased to see that [Penhold Crossing School students and staff have developed a thrift store](#) in their school. [The idea developed in response to students' needs](#). Community donations of clothing often go to Red Deer facilities, although some Penhold families may not have transportation to access those facilities. Having a thrift store in the school provides access. Any student can access the thrift store and clothing items are free. The school plans to open the store one or two days a month.