



Board Highlights

May 7, 2024

Trustees (left to right):

Melissa Copley, Linda Wagers, De Anne Hutchison, Vice-Chair Sherry Cooper, Chair Holly Bilton, Terry Leslie, Jackie Swainson, Kathy Kemmere, Gord Kerr

Board receives update on pre-K programming and supports for students

The Board received an annual update about the division's programming for students with mild, moderate and complex needs in kindergarten and pre-kindergarten. Associate Superintendent Marcie Perdue and Division Principal Melissa McEwan shared that the division has been working to refine the kindergarten screening process to ensure students who enter schools in kindergarten and who have needs, receive appropriate supports. It is also working with schools to align practices with a shift in provincial funding. Perdue and McEwan mentioned research shows early intervention and support for students makes a significant difference in student success.

Trustees hear transportation update

The Board heard that several routes are no longer needed, and the division will purchase one less bus than anticipated. Each bus route is evaluated in a review that is completed annually. Routes that are inefficient are considered for closure. With the reduction in routes for next year, and because the division purchased 16 buses last year, it is anticipated the division will need to purchase seven buses instead of eight, annually. Ride times are anticipated to stay the same or improve for students.

Board recognizes Emily Wilson as its nominee for Edwin Parr Award

The Board welcomed Emily Wilson to the Board meeting to congratulate her on the Chinook's Edge nomination for the Edwin Parr Award, for exceptional first year teachers. The division [announced the nomination](#) recently and released [this video](#) showing Wilson at work in her classroom.

Roy E. Cope Award recipients announced

Trustees are pleased to have selected two recipients for the Roy E. Cope Award this year. Ray Hoppins and Kirk Wassmer are both known as exceptional educators, who have left a remarkable legacy. There will be a separate media release providing more information.



Left to right: Ray Hoppins - Associate Superintendent, Holly Bilton - Board Chair, Emily Wilson - Edwin Parr Nominee, Kurt Sacher - Superintendent, Mike Garrow - Division Principal



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Trustees congratulate DHS student for 100% achievement on Math 30-1 exam

The Board congratulated Tyshia Bessey from Didsbury High School for achieving a mark of 100 percent on the Math 30-1 diploma exam in January 2024. The Board also thanked Tyler Jesse, Bessey's teacher. Bessey plans to attend the University of Toronto to study biochemistry. She plans to major in pharmacology with a toxicology minor.

Locally developed courses approved for use in schools

Annually the Board approves locally developed courses for its approval for use in Chinook's Edge Schools. The courses are developed by other Alberta public school divisions. One of the new offerings in the division next year will be military studies, which the division anticipates will be of interest to students participating in community cadet programs. The division is also offering a number of locally developed language oriented courses to support students who speak English as an additional language.

Board will add a second vice-chair to leadership

The Board decided to add a second vice-chair for the 2024-25 school year. The additional vice-chair will share responsibilities currently completed by the chair and first vice-chair. The Board will fill this position at its annual organizational meeting in June.



Left to right: Scott MacDonald - DHS Principal, Tyler Jesse - Math teacher and DHS Vice Principal, Tyshia Bessey - DHS student, Holly Bilton - Board Chair, Kurt Sacher - Superintendent, Gord Kerr - Didsbury Trustee

The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 25, 2024.

Note - a brief Board meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2024 to consider the division's 2024-25 budget

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