

The Board has re-elected Holly Bilton as Chair, and elected De Anne Hutchison as 1st Vice Chair and Melissa Copley as 2nd Vice Chair at its annual organizational meeting held June 25, 2024.

Also, at the June 25 meeting, the [Board discussed](#) the provincial announcement regarding cell phone and social media use in schools, it reviewed an [administrative procedure](#) developed regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence in schools, and it learned about final preparation to implement Hour Zero throughout the division next year. Hour Zero is a school emergency response system that aligns language and processes in emergency situations with those used by emergency responders.

Trustees were happy to have Alberta Education Minister Demetrios Nicolaidis [visit Olds](#) on June 20, 2024 to [attend an event](#) hosted by the Central Alberta Collegiate Institute (CACI). CACI leaders took the opportunity to [showcase the work](#) that Central Alberta CACI partners have accomplished, and its positive impact on students. Trustees were pleased to hear the Minister's comments that he is committed to building opportunities for students to flourish in school and in life." Career Connections is one of the three key focuses in the Board's Education Plan.

The Board has approved [Spruce View School to receive](#) a \$20,000 Flourishing Stories and Innovation Grant. The money [will be spent](#) to get a [hydroponics growing operation](#) started. Staff and students are excited, and the Board is watching with interest to see how the project develops.

Trustees are enjoying the graduation season, and the opportunity to celebrate the success of students who are completing their K-12 journey. Trustees are pleased, in particular, that Indigenous students are [being given the opportunity](#) to [receive](#) a [medicine pouch or a Metis sash](#) if they would like, and that it has been [meaningful](#) for these students, their families and communities.

The Board was pleased to learn of [Charlie Shi](#), the valedictorian for Cremona School this year, who immigrated to Canada from China in 2016. When Shi arrived he did not know any English, but eight years later become the school's valedictorian. Shi acknowledged the strength of a rural education in his success, as well as his classmates and teachers.

The Board was pleased to see the [collaboration](#) between Ecole Deer Meadow School and Holy Trinity School in Olds, to turn wood from an aging fence into painted wooden benches for use in the courtyard of an emergency shelter being built in Olds. The students wanted to [contribute something](#) to their community, and trustees are pleased to see the community service being offered by students.

Community connections are also impressive to trustees at [Delburne School's annual Soap Box Derby](#). Not only does the [community support](#) the event by attending it, but organizations and businesses financially sponsor individual students and fund the purchase of supplies to create the Soap Box cars. (Video highlights of this year's races are available [here](#)). The Board appreciates the efforts of schools to work together with community members to provide opportunities for students.

Trustees send their congratulations and best wishes to Kelly Frere, a [bus driver and trainer](#), who [won the Alberta Bus Road-ee](#), and will be attending the International Bus Road-ee in Texas at the end of June.

Trustees send their congratulations as well to the Hugh Sutherland School choir, which received gold at provincial music festival and has been [invited to attend](#) Canada West music festival. And, as well, to a number of Chinook's Edge track and field athletes who [attended](#) a provincial track and field meet and did extremely well, including Jonah Olfert Wiens, a Cremona student who [set a new provincial record](#) in the triple jump.