



Board Highlights

September 10, 2024

Trustees (left to right):

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

Chinook's Edge Board approves allocation of \$1.1 million of provincial funding

The Board approved a plan to allocate \$1.1 million in funding from the province, announced in July. The money is the division's share of the \$125 million distributed provincially to school divisions to address enrollment pressures. Chinook's Edge will spend:

- \$600,000 to address specific pressure points in schools, using the division's established process of identifying and prioritizing challenges. This equates to approximately 3.5 FTE (full time equivalent) teachers and 5 FTE educational assistants.
- Up to \$140,000 to support Chinook's Edge Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers with release time, so they can complete testing that Alberta Education asked divisions to undertake for the first time.
- \$350,000 to purchase additional chromebooks for student use. With the province asking for school divisions to focus on removing distractions in schools, by eliminating student use of cell phones or other smart devices in class, the additional chromebooks will ensure students continue to have access to the learning tools they need. Also, starting in 2025-26, provincial achievement tests and diploma exams will require chromebook access; the purchase of additional chromebooks will assist schools in supporting provincial testing.
- \$15,000 to increase the time of the safety coordinator to support the implementation of Hour Zero, an emergency management program, adopted by Chinook's Edge in the 2024-25 school year.

Board prepares to launch Superintendent hiring process

Superintendent Kurt Sacher has announced that he will retire at the end of the 2024-25 school year, after 14 years leading Chinook's Edge School Division. The Board thanked Superintendent Sacher for his exemplary leadership. The Board anticipates a great year ahead. Also, the Board is now preparing to hire a new Superintendent. The Board will begin its hiring process this fall, with the goal of announcing a new Superintendent early in 2025.

Trustees learn the number of students participating in summer learning increased

Trustees received a report from Jason Drent, Associate Superintendent, about student learning underway during July and August 2024. Drent explained the variety of ways summer learning benefits students, including giving them a chance to manage their high school workload, have a second chance at a class, build basic understanding of the google environment, or to gain career-building experiences.

- 191 Chinook's Edge high school students participated in summer school, an increase from 163 students in 2023
- 236 students participated in off-campus work experience learning, compared to 184 students in 2023
- 186 students participated in the Jumpstart program, with 142 of those students completing six credits and earning a Chromebook. There was a 32 per cent increase in the number of credits earned this year as compared to 2023

Chinook's Edge is thankful for its partnership with [CAREERS](#), and its work to find additional employment opportunities for students. If members of the public are aware of employment opportunities for students please contact: careerscentral@nextgen.org.

Trustees welcome new staff members

Trustees welcomed six new staff members to division office today. The staff members are either new to the division or new to their role in division office. Welcome to Suzanne Thibault - the new Health and Safety Coordinator, Jeff Thompson - a new Division Principal with People Services, Leanne Gosse - Learning Commons Coordinator, Ryan Frere - Transportation Administrative Support, Lisa Seidel - Career Connections Teacher and School Engagement Coordinator for CAREERS, and Kent Lorenz - Community Learning Campus Director.



Media and Cinema Studies approved for use in the division

Trustees approved the use of Media and Cinema Studies 15, 25 and 35 for use in the division. Penhold Crossing Secondary School requested approval of the course.

Chinook's Edge trustees will advocate with Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools trustees for new Sylvan Lake School

Chinook's Edge trustees plan to work with trustees from Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools to advocate to the provincial government for a new high school in Sylvan Lake. The proposed new Grade 10 to 12 school is the division's top request to the province on the [division's capital plan](#). The new high school would be a collegiate model high school in partnership with Red Deer Catholic, the Town of Sylvan Lake and other partners including post secondary institutions and [CAREERS](#). The school would have shared space for all partners with the CESD high school attached on one side and a Red Deer Catholic School attached on the other side. The current Chinook's Edge high school in Sylvan Lake, Ecole H.J. Cody, is over capacity.

The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 8, 2024

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