



Board eNews ... issued October 23, 2024

The Chinook's Edge School Board has [formed an ad hoc committee](#) focused on [student health](#). The purpose of the committee is to [seek a collaborative / alternative funding model](#) for student supports. The committee will also investigate options on a new delivery model for health related supports for students, and investigate other opportunities for health related advocacy.

Also at the October 8, 2024 meeting, the Board voted in favor of [hiring Leaders International](#) to support its search for a new Superintendent. Superintendent Kurt Sacher will retire at the end of the 2024-25 school year after 14 years in the role.

Trustees approved the [division's application](#) to the Alberta government for four modular classroom units and a washroom unit for Ecole Olds High School. The utilization rate for the school is high. If the province approves the application it will add needed spaces for students.

The Board was pleased to see an [increase in its student population](#) from 11,167 students in September 2023 to 11,262 students in September 2024.

At the October 8th meeting, the [Board congratulated Luke Dodd](#), a graduate from Innisfail High School for achieving 100% on the Physics 30 Diploma Exam in June. The Board also thanked teacher Maddy Disterheft, who was Dodd's teacher.

The Board of Trustees was pleased to see the division take some steps on the path of Truth and Reconciliation, including [recognition of Elder John Sinclair](#) who has shared wisdom and knowledge with the division for 10 years, the [welcoming of Cadmus Delorme](#) the former Chief of the Cowessess First Nation to speak to senior leaders and division staff, another year of Indigenous Lead teachers getting underway, and the [launch of a video](#) of the newly developed land acknowledgement (watch video [HERE](#)). Also, trustees were pleased to see the number of [Orange Shirt Day activities in schools](#).

Trustees are supportive of the many career building opportunities that the division is working on to provide students. For instance, Chinook's Edge [launched its second aviation](#) cohort this fall, with [six students participating](#). Also, the Board was pleased to see a newly developed "[apprentice for a day](#)" experience for high school students. The opportunity was [developed by the Central Alberta Collegiate Institute \(CACI\)](#), which Chinook's Edge is a part of with three other school divisions (Wolf Creek Public Schools, Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, and Red Deer Public) as well as Olds College of Agriculture & Technology, Red Deer Polytechnic and CAREERS.

Trustees are also supportive of ongoing work around Academic Excellence, one of the division's three key priorities. On a professional learning day recently, [more than 200 teachers](#) gathered to collaborate and to gain additional understanding of how students learn. The group has been gathering three times annually for the last three school years. Last year's focus was assessment, while this year the attention has turned to instructional delivery (the way teachers deliver content to students).

The Board is supportive of the division's [launch of Hour Zero](#), an emergency management response program, this fall. School staff are trained in the protocols and are using them. Learn more about Hour Zero [here](#).