

The Chinook's Edge Board of Trustees is [pleased to announce](#) it has [appointed Dr. Ryan Sawula](#), as [Superintendent of Schools, starting June 2, 2025](#). "[Dr. Sawula is a respected K-12 leader](#) who shares our [division's values](#) of [student-centered learning](#), [innovation](#), and academic excellence," says Holly Bilton, Chinook's Edge Board Chair. "His track record of building strong relationships and ensuring that every student receives a high-quality education aligns perfectly with our mission at Chinook's Edge."

The Board is preparing for its annual spring budgeting process. At its [meeting on February 4](#), the Board [reviewed the process that will be used](#), which [prioritizes fairness and transparency](#) in the way resources are allocated.

Also at its [February 4 meeting](#), the Board said it will support school council members who wish to attend the Alberta School Councils Association annual conference, to be held virtually on April 26. In addition, trustees discussed how the Board will welcome any new trustees that join the Board after the upcoming municipal election on October 20, 2025.

The Board continues to support the work of the division in building career connections for students. Late in January, [three Chinook's Edge students](#) spoke to [municipal and local trades](#) businesses, as a [part of an event](#) hosted at Red Deer Polytechnic, by the [Central Alberta Collegiate Institute \(CACI\)](#). CACI is a partnership between Chinook's Edge, Red Deer Catholic Regional Public Schools, Red Deer Public Schools, Wolf Creek Public Schools, Olds College of Agriculture and Technology, Red Deer Polytechnic, and CAREERS: a not-for-profit organization that collaborates with schools to connect youth with employers, providing valuable paid internship opportunities.

The Board is pleased to see the impact of its priority on career connections in the lives of students. For instance, [four Chinook's Edge graduates](#) have now moved onto [post-secondary training](#) in the skilled trades, [after multiple career pathways experiences](#) during their years in Chinook's Edge. Another example is the [acceptance of a student](#) from Ecole Olds High School, who was accepted into the Olds College meat cutting program.

Trustees are watching with interest as the new Penhold Waskasoo Middle School building [takes shape](#). Exterior siding work has begun, polishing of the interior concrete floor is underway, interior framing is nearing completion, and drywall installation has started. Also, trustees were happy to see that the school [recently announced](#) its [new corporate and athletic logo](#), developed after stakeholder feedback. The school's mascot will be the [Red Winged Blackbird](#), which symbolizes change, transformation, love and compassion, inner strength, courage and determination. Red Winged Blackbirds can often be found in the ponds and sloughs behind the new school.