



Chinook's Edge School Division

Board of Trustees

Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2019
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Boardroom

Attendance

Trustees Present: C. Butler, S. Cooper, M. Copley (9:08 a.m.), C. Huelsman, T. James, G. Kerr, J. Knispel-Matejka and A. Tarnoczi

Trustees Absent: H. Bilton

Staff: S. Bexon - Communications Officer, S. Russell - Associate Superintendent Corporate Services, K. Sacher - Superintendent/CEO, S. Babb - Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and S. Westwood - Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair A. Tarnoczi called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement • Treaty 7 - attachment

Board Chair A. Tarnoczi opened the meeting with a Treaty 7 Land Acknowledgement.

Agenda/Minutes Approval

Agenda Approval

Resolution # 20191211001

Moved By: C. Huelsman

Motion to accept the agenda dated 2019 December 11 as amended.

Carried

Minutes Approval

Resolution # 20191211002

Moved By: S. Cooper

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 Board of Education approve the minutes of the November 27, 2019 Board of Education Meeting.

Carried

In Camera

The Board of Trustees moved In Caucus from 9:06 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

It was noted that C. Butler, S. Cooper, M. Copley, C. Huelsman, T. James, G. Kerr, J. Knispel-Matejka, A. Tarnoczi remained in the meeting at this time.

Resolution # 20191211003

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees reappoint Kurt Sacher as Superintendent of Schools/CEO, conditional on receipt of Ministerial approval and agreement on contract of employment.

Carried

Resolution # 20191211004

Moved By: C. Butler

Motion to move In Camera at 9:15 a.m.

Carried

Personnel

At 9:21 a.m. Associate Superintendent People Services R. Hoppins joined the meeting and provided an update on personnel items during the In Camera portion of the meeting.

9:30 a.m. Associate Superintendent People Services R. Hoppins left the meeting

Superintendent's Personnel Update

Superintendent K Sacher provided an update on personnel items during the In Camera portion of the meeting.

Accounts Payable - attachment

The accounts payable cheques for \$500.00 dollars and the deposits for November, 2019 were reviewed during the In Camera portion of the meeting.

Visa - attachment

Visa purchases over \$500.00 for November were reviewed during the In Camera portion of the meeting.

Facilities Update

Associate Superintendent Corporate Services S. Russell provided a Facilities update during the In Camera portion of the meeting.

Resolution # 20191211005

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees write a thank you letter to the Minister of Education regarding the awarding of the Carstairs Elementary expansion project and the desire to move forward with the project as soon as possible.

Carried

Negotiations Committee / TEBA Update - attachment

Trustee S. Cooper discussed the Memorandum of Agreement between the Alberta Teachers' Association and Chinook's Edge School Division.

Resolution # 20191211006

Moved By: S. Cooper

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Alberta Teachers' Association, dated November 12, 2019.

Carried

ASBIE Insurance

Resolution # 20191211007

Moved By: C. Huelsman

Motion to direct the Superintendent to explore options to secure a long-term, insurance solution for the Division and to serve notice to the Alberta School Boards' Association to terminate the Division's participation in ASBIE, in accordance with the subscriber agreement, for the next school year.

Carried

Resolution # 20191211008

Moved By: M. Copley

Motion to return to the regular meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Carried

New Business

Three Year Plan and Annual Education Results Report

Reconvene: 1:10 p.m.

Associate Superintendent System Services K. Barber joined the meeting to present the Chinook's Edge School Division Three Year Plan and Annual Education Results Report; the presentation linked Chinook's Edge four (4) Organizational Strategic Goals with the Outcomes and Performance Measures from Alberta Education. The report will be presented in January to the Ministry's Zone 4 Manager.

Resolution # 20191211009

Moved By: C. Huelsman

Motion that the Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees approve the Three Year Plan and Annual Education Results Report as presented.

Carried

Budget Update

Treasurer S. Roy joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m. and provided an update to the 2019-2020 budget. S. Roy highlighted the following:

- Alberta Infrastructure was adjusted to accurately reflect the revenue from amortization of supported tangible capital assets related to assets acquired with funds from Infrastructure.
- Investment income is increased to reflect the interest that will be earned on SGF accounts as all individual school accounts are being closed and merged to allow better investing and higher returns on the funds. , It was noted that that our investment income has been coming in higher than budgeted for a few years.
- The \$335,716.00 in FCSS grants from Alberta municipalities was previously classified as "Alberta Municipalities - special tax levies". At the request of Alberta Education, it has been reclassified as "other revenue."
- Plant Operations and Maintenance expenses have increased significantly due to significant increases in insurance premiums.
- \$1,089,000.00 in certified salaries was incorrectly classified as uncertificated salaries in the spring budget. That has been corrected in the comparative column.
- Reserve estimates for August 31, 2019 were conservative. Final results came in higher than projected.
- CESD is using reserves to cover funding reductions and increased insurance costs.
- Kindergarten enrolment estimates came in higher than originally estimated.

1:42 p.m. – Treasurer S. Roy left the meeting.

Transportation Quarterly Update - attachment

Associate Superintendent Corporate Services S. Russell presented the Transportation quarterly update.

Board School Visit Reminder - attachment

Trustees were reminded of the following Board school visits for January 8th:

10:00 a.m. Reed Ranch School

11:30 a.m. Horizon School

12:45 p.m. École Olds Elementary School

2:30 p.m. École Deer Meadow School

Superintendent K. Sacher discussed changes to the Career High visits based on feedback received

Governance Efficiencies

This item was tabled to the January meeting.

Alberta Rural Education Symposium - attachment

Chair A. Tarnoczi provided information on the Alberta Rural Education Symposium being held at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton, March 1-3, 2020.

Please let S. Westwood know if you will be attending.

Superintendent Update - attachment

Superintendent K. Sacher provided an update on the following items:

- Teachers Matter - November 22nd.
- University of Alberta Grant.
- COLT off-site - December 2nd.
- Penhold Crossing Presentation – Superintendent K. Sacher spoke to a group of students regarding Mental Health.

- Medically Fragile Students – Associate Superintendent Student Services M. Perdue is working with parents of medically fragile students to ensure the safety of students.
- K-12 Collaboration.
- Students Matter Committee – On December 10th the members of the Students Matter Committee provided input on the social emotional outcomes.
- Horizon Adhoc Committee - As a follow up to the Adhoc Committees work, the committee will meet with Horizon parents at 7:00 p.m. on January 20, 2020 in Olds.

Committees

Audit Committee - no meeting

No meeting prior to this meeting.

Education Committee - meeting (November 27th) - attachment (no recommendations)

The minutes of the November 27, 2019 education committee meeting were provided for review.

Facilities and Maintenance Committee - no meeting

No meeting prior to this meeting.

Policy Committee - meeting (November 29th) - attachment (with recommendations)

The minutes of the November 29, 2019 Policy Committee meeting were provided for review. Committee Chairs were reminded to review PL 2 – 01.4.1 Board Committee Exhibit and provide input as soon as possible.

Resolution # 20191211010

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that the Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees accept the changes to PL 2-01.0.0 Role of the Board as presented.

Carried

Resolution # 20191211011

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that the Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees approve the amendment to PL 2-01.4.1 Board Committees Exhibit 1 Student Appeal Committee 1 to read "To hear an appeal under Sections 37 and 42 of the Education Act where a decision of an employee of a Board significantly affects the education of a student."

Carried

Resolution # 20191211012

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that the Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees to amend PL 3 - 07.0.0 Risk Management 9. to read "Only field trips within the Country and the continental United States may be approved by the Superintendent. **The Superintendent can only designate an Associate Superintendent**, and 10 to read "When the Superintendent or designated Associate Superintendent approves out of country and out of province field trips, exchange programs or offsite activities, the Superintendent shall inform the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting."

Carried

Stakeholder Relations Committee - meeting (December 3rd) - attachment (no recommendations)

The minutes of the December 3, 2019 Stakeholder Relations Committee meeting were provided for review. Trustee M. Copley led a discussion regarding topics for conversation when meeting with the Minister. The top three or four discussion items when speaking with the Minister of Education include: ASBIE Insurance Fees, Transportation, Capital Projects and Red Tape Reduction. Superintendent K. Sacher suggested that copyright litigation cost recovery be a topic for discussion. The Stakeholder Relations Committee will ensure that the top discussion topics and speaking notes are updated in the Board Advocacy document as a meeting may be requested without a lot of advance notice.

Communications Officer S. Bexon shared the draft January Board eNewsletter. It was noted that this eNewsletter will be circulated prior to the Christmas break. The eNewsletter was approved for circulation.

Technology Committee - meeting (November 27th) - attachment (no recommendations)

Trustee J. Knispel-Matejka reviewed the minutes from the November 27, 2019 Technology Committee with the Board.

Trustee S. Cooper asked if WIFI should be turned off at 6:00 p.m. throughout the entire division.

Transportation Committee - meeting (December 4th) - attachment (no recommendations)

The minutes from the December 4, 2019 Transportation Committee meeting were provided for review. The Board spent considerable time discussing the Transportation Deficit. Associate Superintendent Corporate Services S. Russell shared nine different scenarios with the Board of Trustees to address the deficit.

Option 1 (Status Quo) and 2 (Stop transporting students entirely) were removed after discussion by the Board of Trustees.

Option 3 Stop transporting all unfunded urban students. It was noted that the Chinook's Edge Transportation deficit is not solely from urban busing. Choosing this option would still leave a deficit of over \$600,000.00. Trustees were not in favour of this option.

Option 4 Increase fees for unfunded students who ride the bus. This option would still leave a deficit.

Option 5 Charge all students (rural or urban, partially funded or unfunded) who ride the bus a similar fee. Trustees discussed this option and see that this could cause a need for more buses increasing the deficit.

Option 6 Charge all partially funded riders a basic fee and charge unfunded students who ride the bus a fee. There would be two different charges to ride and depending on the fee, it may still leave a deficit.

Option 7 Include a basic surcharge to all students with school registration fees and apply to all 11,000 students.

Option 8 Charge all unfunded riders a fee and a surcharge to all students.

Option 9 - Transfer all Transportation to a contracted bus service. This would increase the deficit by over \$600,000.00. It was also noted that once we are out of transporting students, it would not be possible to resume this service.

Option 10 - any combination of the above.

Trustee S. Cooper shared that when the Transportation committee discussed this topic, the committee wanted to ensure that they gathered as much information as possible for an informed choice. When parents ask questions, the Board can say that they explored all the possibilities.

Trustee C. Butler is opposed to charging rural students to get to school but believes that the Board has no choice. She shared that the Board needs to communicate that they are not receiving funding and need to charge for Transportation.

Trustee M. Copley asked what the impact over the next two to five years if we do not buy buses every year. Transportation Director D. Brandt shared that the average bus in the fleet is ten years old, and Transportation is running them to up to 500,000 km. Without bus replacement, the cost of repairs will increase, and the parts budgets will increase. With Transportation evergreening buses on a rotation, the repair and parts costs are decreasing. D. Brandt strongly recommends that we continue to purchase new buses yearly and be proactive in risk management.

Trustee M. Copley also asked if there is an opportunity to offer driver training or if we could put advertising on buses. Transportation Director D. Brandt explained that we are a driver training school and could teach however, staff does not have time as there are only two trainers in the division and they would require more training to teach for a class 5 licence. Associate Superintendent Corporate Services S. Russell reminded the Board that there is a policy against advertising as it is not permitted on buses.

Trustee M. Copley wanted to ensure that the division could offer instalment plans for payment of Transportation fees. Assistant Director P. Thompson explained that there is the option to make payments through student pay, but it is not being used at this time. Trustee M. Copley wants to ensure part of the communications strategy is the instalment plan.

Trustee G. Kerr agrees with Trustee C. Butler's comments. G. Kerr also stated that Chinook's Edge would need to be very clear that the monthly fee is for a yearly cost.

Trustee C. Huelsman believes that Chinook's Edge needs to pull the bandage off. This deficit has been going on for far too long and it is time to fix it. Trustee C. Huelsman is opposed to a payment plan.

The Transportation deficit continues to increase; if nothing is done Chinook's Edge is looking at the equivalent of 8 to 10 teachers or 30 support staff in schools. In the province, there are a large number of boards addressing this issue.

Trustee T. James agrees that Chinook's Edge has to charge a fee. Trustee T. James also shared that parents have been asking her about fees for Transportation and she has shared that this may be something coming soon.

Trustee J. Knipsel-Matejka agrees that we do have to charge a fee but prefers a basic fee for all students.

Trustee M. Copley wants to ensure that Chinook's Edge has an instalment option, payments required in September and January. A larger conversation needs to happen with towns that are close to or are at city status regarding Transportation. Trustee M. Copley also disagrees with rural students not paying to ride the bus.

Trustee S. Cooper shared that messaging is key and there needs to be a communications plan in place. The communication plan should highlight that there has not been an increase in government grants for Transportation since 2012 and that there is no longer a fuel subsidy.

Trustee G. Kerr spoke to ensuring that we are clear with our messaging. Parents have a responsibility to get children to school and that may mean paying a fee. Chinook's Edge may see a decrease in ridership when a fee is implemented.

Trustee A. Tarnoczi strongly supports option six and Chinook's Edge needs to have a strong, robust communication plan.

Trustee S. Cooper spoke to an implementation date, as the Board needs to ensure parents are provided lead time to prepare for a fee.

Associate Superintendent Corporate Services S. Russell also reminded the Board that the carbon tax starts again in January.

Superintendent K. Sacher reminded the Board that they have gone out of their way to advocate for funding from every angle. He also reminded the Board that they will get push back, but we will provide proper communications and believes that the public is ready for this as it has been in the media.

Superintendent K. Sacher is also very appreciative of a solution for Transportation. He thanked Associate Superintendent Corporate Services S. Russell, Director of Transportation D. Brandt and Assistant Director P. Thompson for the hours of work put into the documentation providing data.

The Administration recommendation is to charge all partially funded students a fee of \$200.00 / student (\$850,000.00) and all unfunded students a fee of \$500.00

(\$336,500.00) generating \$1,186,500.00 eliminating the projected deficit. This works out to the equivalent of \$1.14 / day for partially funded students and \$2.84 / day for unfunded students. This calculation is based on the elimination of the K-5 lower rate, and students requesting a seat on multiple buses pay the fee for each bus that they want a seat on. School of choice fees would also increase to \$500.00. This recommendation does include maintaining the family cap.

The Chinook's Edge Board of Trustees will speak to this item at the January Board meeting and a decision will be made at that time.

Horizon Adhoc Committee - no meeting

No meeting prior to this meeting.

Regular Business

Enrolments - attachment

Superintendent K. Sacher shared enrolment numbers as of November 29, 2019.

Correspondence - attachment

Board Chair A. Tarnoczi shared a response letter from the Honourable A. LaGrange, Minister of Education.

The Board discussed the Rutherford Scholarship recipient list and Trustee C. Butler would like to see the formula used to compile the list.

Resolution # 20191211013

Moved By: C. Butler

Motion to direct the Superintendent to look into the Rutherford Scholarship Formula for current grade 10, 11 and 12 students.

Carried

Trip Requests - attachment

A summary of the trips approved for the 2019-2020 school year were provided for review.

Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

Board Chair A. Tarnoczi called for Trustee remuneration and expense sheets for November 2019.

Board Strategic Plan - 2019/2020 - attachment

The Board Strategic Plan links were provided for review.

Board Work Plan - 2019/2020 - attachment

The Board Work Plan was provided for review.

Alberta School Board Association - attachment

Trustee J. Knispel-Matejka provided an update on recent ASBA items.

- An update was provided from the December 2 ASBA Zone 4 meeting and the highlights were attached. The Edwin Parr banquet is moving to the Westerner in Red Deer and the cost is increasing. ASBA Zone 4 would like to know how many tickets Chinook's Edge will require to help compile numbers. The Board discussed the new cost for tickets and do not agree with the cost increase. There was also discussion on changing ASBA Zone 4 to Central Alberta Association Zone 4. Chinook's Edge is not in agreement with a name change.
- The next ASBA Zone 4 meeting is January 27, 2020 at Clearview School Division. Please let S. Westwood know if you will be attending.

Canadian School Boards Association - attachment

The CSBA 2020 Congress will be held in Banff, AB. Registration is not yet open.

National School Boards Association - attachment

The National School Board Association conference is being held in Chicago, IL - April 4-6, 2020. Early registration is now open.

Rural Caucus

Trustee S. Cooper provided an update on Rural Caucus.

Trustee Professional Development Reports

Trustees provided a verbal update on their communities.

Town of Olds meeting

Dates have been shared with the Town of Olds and we are waiting for a reply.

Adjournment

Resolution # 20191211014

Moved By: C. Huelsman

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Carried

A. Tarnoczi - Chair

C. Butler - Vice Chair

S. Russell - Corporate Secretary