



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 8, 2014 Board Meeting

Trustees: (back row) Sherry Cooper, Ron Fisher (Vice Chair), Colleen Butler (Chair), Superintendent Kurt Sacher, Connie Huelsman
(front row) Sheldon Ball, Trudy James, Jackie Swainson, Holly Bilton, Gordon Kerr

New grade configurations at Penhold schools:

Rapid population increases in the Penhold area continue to present challenges for space at all three Chinook's Edge schools. The instructional spaces at Jessie Duncan Elementary are currently full and the staff room is being used as the library. With the current grade configuration, Jessie Duncan cannot accommodate the increased enrolment projected for the 2015-2016 year and this enrolment trend continues up through all the grades. To ease the enrolment pressures across all schools, and to continue to provide students with the quality learning that families have come to expect from Chinook's Edge, the Board approved changes to the grade configuration for all three Penhold schools. Beginning with the start of next school year (2015-2016), Penhold students will be served as follows:

Jessie Duncan Elementary School	Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 1
Penhold School	Grade 2 to Grade 5
Penhold Crossing Secondary School	Grade 6 to Grade 12

Carstairs Adhoc committee formed:

An adhoc committee, comprised of Trustees Sheldon Ball, Gordon Kerr and Ron Fisher, will address growth in the southern region of the division. This committee will engage multiple stakeholders around their vision for learning for Chinook's Edge students in the Carstairs community for the next 5-6 years. The Board is facing a blend of short term and long term challenges created by the upward trends of community growth, which is resulting in challenges for learning space in Carstairs. The Board will be addressing this critical situation from multiple angles, including continuing to advocate to the provincial government for additional learning space in Carstairs, and positioning this as a top priority in the Chinook's Edge Capital Plan requests. As well, the new committee will work to gain feedback from key stakeholder groups, with a focus to build a plan together and bring key recommendations back to the Board early in the new year.

2015-2018 Capital Plan Requests:

The Board approved a list of priority capital projects, which will be forwarded to the Alberta Government to draw attention to certain priorities in the division. It includes: H.J. Cody School modernization; new Carstairs school; Jessie Duncan Elementary School addition; Elnora School modernization; Spruce View School gymnasium addition and modernization; and the annual request for support of the Olds Koinonia School lease.

Facility Services update:

Darrel Dyvig, Director of Facility Services, provided an update on the summer projects that were completed by maintenance and custodial staff. "Our crew works hard all year, but they are particularly busy over the summer when schools are closed and most other departments slow down," said Darrel. "I am very fortunate to be working with such a great group. It's these people who are called in on weekends and in the evenings, if there is an issue at a school facility. With the staff reductions we have been challenged with over the last few years, the existing staff is taking over even more projects. They are working efficiently and successfully, and they're always looking for ways of reducing costs." The Board expressed gratitude to Chinook's Edge crews, who accomplish everything from \$1 million in annual roofing maintenance to ensuring soap dispensers are full, so that our students and staff arrive to safe, comfortable and clean schools each day. Trustees thanked Darrel for his expertise and dedication.

Transportation costs:

The Board will request a meeting with Education Minister Gordon Dirks, specifically to discuss the complexities around providing transportation in a large rural school division. The Board has voiced concerns in the past, particularly the elimination of the provincial government's Fuel Contingency Funding of approximately \$557,000 per year.

Course approval:

The Board approved a new locally developed course: Paleontology 15-25-35.

Cremona Playground:

The Board approved a request from Cremona School to proceed with a fundraising project in support of their playground expansion project.

The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73 is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, November 5, 2014.

For more information please contact:

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