



Board Highlights

May 11, 2022

Trustees (left to right):

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

Roy E. Cope Award presented to retiring École Olds High Principal:

The Board announced this year's recipient of the Roy E. Cope award is long serving Principal, Tom Christensen. This award is an honour considered each year by the Board for a person who has made significant contributions to the welfare of students. *Please see Page 2 for more information.*

Planning for Pre-Kindergarten programming:

The Board made a motion directing the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting clarification on the data the ministry used to inform their decision to change the funding approach for 'PUF' students (3 and 4 year-old children with identified needs). Clarity will also be requested on the role the ministry would like Chinook's Edge to take moving forward in preparing young children for success in their early years through Pre-Kindergarten programming.

Bus storage facilities:

The Board passed a motion to construct school bus storage compounds in Didsbury and Carstairs.

Technology Services report:

As part of the department's regular update, Karyn Barber (Associate Superintendent System Services) reported on the growing demands of cyber insurance, which represent increased costs to the division. The Technology Department is involved in collaborative opportunities, alongside other divisions in the province, to determine various strategies to mitigate these costs. Chinook's Edge has exceeded the current minimum insurance requirements. It was also reported that the Technology Department has worked to double the bandwidth at Delburne Centralized School and Reed Ranch School, which had been challenged with Internet access due to their remote location.

Locally Developed Courses:

The Board approved locally developed courses in Astronomy, Competencies in Math, Intercultural Studies, Military Studies, Sculpture, Technical Theatre and Marine Life. Further information is available [at this link](#).

Planning for 2022-2023 school year:

Superintendent Kurt Sacher reported that school administrators spent a full day together recently for planning, setting direction and considering budgets for next school year.

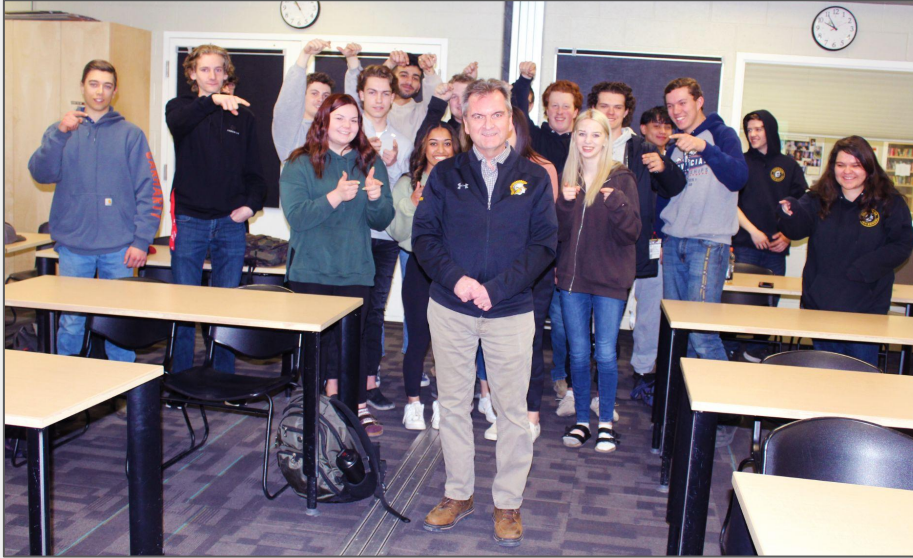
Funding received to develop designs and concepts for new school:

The Board received a letter from the Minister of Education and Minister of Infrastructure outlining the approval of funding to proceed with a design concept for a replacement of Penhold Elementary School (Grade 4-8).

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Roy E. Cope Award presented to retiring École Olds High Principal:



Tom Christensen's contribution to Chinook's Edge has been significant – not only for his 30+ years as Principal and Vice Principal of École Olds High School, but also as a steadfast mentor to his colleagues throughout the division.

"I will miss the classroom. I'm grateful that I was able to stay a teacher even in my role as Principal, because I really do love the interactions that happen in those four walls."

As a Master Teacher, Tom has placed students at the centre of all his efforts. His strength led to several acknowledgments and awards, including the Alberta Education Excellence in Teaching Award. Throughout the years, Tom has lent his gentle leadership skills to guide many innovative practices at Olds High – from being a High School Re-Design pioneer and an early adopter of Gay-Straight Alliance efforts, to ensuring the school's place of pride as an internationally recognized UNESCO-Associated School. Olds High has hosted several large provincial and national student leadership conferences, and Tom has personally provided over 500 hours each year through his extra work.

Tom has set a warm and welcoming tone with parents, community, government and media. He was called on to deliver a high level of collaboration with external partners in the creation and ongoing programming of the Community Learning Campus (CLC) – a joint venture between Olds College and Chinook's Edge School Division.

"A highlight for me was working on the CLC and seeing how the community rallied, and continues to rally, around the school and this important partnership," said Tom. "I attended over 600 meetings in the planning of the CLC but it never seemed like a burden, because we knew it would have big implications for the future of Olds, Mountain View County and Chinook's Edge.

"My favourite part of my role, though, has been without question being able to work with multiple generations of families in Olds. Olds is like family to me, because I have been able to work with so many people from the same family. I've seen so many amazing things that Olds High graduates go on to accomplish in the community and beyond.

"I am very honoured to receive the award, because I know what Roy Cope did for Red Deer County and I'm humbled to be in the same category as the other recipients. It means a lot to me that the Board and my peers at Division Office would consider me for this award."

**The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division is scheduled to take place on
Wednesday, June 22, 2022.**

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