



Board Highlights

March 8, 2023

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

Chinook's Edge Board approves the division's Capital Plan

Chinook's Edge Board ready to submit its Capital Plan to the province for consideration. Annually school divisions submit their top priorities for significant building projects to Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure. Today the Chinook's Edge Board approved its plan. Priorities include: 1. A new grade 10-12 high school in Sylvan Lake. 2. Modernization of Innisfail High School. 3. A new elementary school in Olds. 4. A new K-8 school for Liberty Landing (in Gasoline Alley). 5. A new middle school in Carstairs or the modernization of Hugh Sutherland School. Also, the [Board expressed appreciation](#) for the provincial decision to provide construction funding for a new school in Penhold. This had previously been the division's top capital priority.

Board hears update about changes to transportation funding

Trustees received an update about provincial funding for transportation. As a part of its budget the province announced that by the fall of 2024 school divisions will receive funding to bus elementary students who live more than one kilometre from school. Also, students in grade seven to 12 will be funded if they live two km from school. Currently school divisions receive funding for students who live 2.4 kilometres away. The Board discussed the impact of the change on Chinook's Edge. The division is working to anticipate how many additional students would choose to ride the bus, and what capacity on buses will be required.

New Penhold school name selected

The Board has selected the name: Penhold Waskasoo Middle School for the new school that will soon be built. The Board asked the community for ideas for the school name. Several were submitted and they were considered for their alignment with the Board's policy for naming schools. The Board thanks the individuals who provided ideas.

Budget update

The budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year was updated to account for changes in enrolment, provincial grants, and staffing changes, as well as known reserves as of August 31, 2022. Reserves available to balance the instructional budget were lower than originally projected. To offset this, Chinook's Edge utilized grant money from the province and unrestricted reserves.

A report on revenues and expenses for the five months ending January 31, 2023 was provided and the division is on track to meet the revised budget.

The Board approves school bus purchase

The Board approved the purchase of seven school buses. Currently Chinook's Edge has 106 buses in its fleet serving the south half of the school division. Chinook's Edge provides transportation to students in the northern part of the school division through contracted services.

The next meeting of the Board of Chinook's Edge School Division is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 5, 2023.

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