

Trustees were thrilled to learn that the [province will provide construction funding](#) for a [new middle school in Penhold](#). Construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2023.

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously at its March 8 meeting on the name of the new school in Penhold. The name is: [Penhold Waskasoo Middle School](#).

The Board approved its [Capital Plan](#), which outlines priorities for future construction in Chinook's Edge. Each public school division submits a capital plan and the province uses the information to determine funding. The top priority in the Chinook's Edge Capital Plan is a [new high school for Sylvan Lake](#).

The Board is working with staff to understand the impact of a change in funding for bussed students. At its recent Board meeting, trustees learned that the [province is changing the criteria](#) about which students are funded. The [province will provide school divisions transportation funding](#) for elementary students who live more than one kilometer from school, and for grade seven to 12 students who live two kilometers away. The current distance is 2.4 kilometers.

The Alberta Francophone games are coming to [Sylvan Lake from May 12 to 14](#). École Fox Run is preparing to serve as event host, and to welcome about 500 student participants. Trustees are pleased to see the success of French Immersion programs in Sylvan Lake and Olds, and they anticipate the positive experience students will have as they participate in the event.

Trustees were pleased to learn that an important project in Chinook's Edge is now complete. The project involved developing an [online repository for resources for high school teachers](#) in 64 subject areas. The intent was to create a wealth of high quality teaching materials for each course. The project was led by 14 master teachers who will also ensure the repository is regularly updated. The Board anticipates the positive impact of this project for years to come, and its contribution to student academic success.

Trustees are pleased to see extended opportunities for student growth, including a [leadership conference](#) hosted by students from [H.J. Cody School in Sylvan Lake](#) and Ecole Olds High School, and the science fair. Fifteen students from the southern half of Chinook's Edge [qualified at their regional science fair](#) to advance to the provincial level, on April 1 in Red Deer.

The [Roots of Empathy program](#) is underway in a classroom in River Valley School in Sundre. The intent of the program is to build empathy and kindness in students. Trustees appreciate the work of staff to find opportunities like this one to build the social emotional wellbeing of students.