

The Chinook's Edge Board has [passed a \\$136.8 million budget](#) for the 2023-24 school year. [The budget](#) includes an operating deficiency of \$930,000, with an anticipated reserve level of 2.3 per cent of the overall budget at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

The Board has [also approved its education plan for 2023-24](#). The plan is a three year plan that extends from 2021 to 2024 and is submitted to the province annually. The Board continues to focus its work on three pillars: academic excellence, social and emotional well-being, and career connections, with updated priorities within the pillars for the 2023-24 school year.

Trustees were pleased with feedback collected from students, parents and staff in a second-annual Chinook's Edge satisfaction survey. The [division is celebrating](#) an increase in the satisfaction of parents with their involvement in their child's education.

[The Board has ratified a Memorandum of Agreement with teachers](#). The agreement covers September 2020 until August 31, 2024. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the agreement on May 31, 2023, and teachers voted in favor of it on June 6, 2023.

The Board was pleased to learn that Marie-Astrid Detharet, the Chinook's Edge French Immersion Coordinator, [has received the "French Immersion Leader of the Year"](#) Award from the Canadian Parents for French and the Alberta French Language Education Consortium.

Also of note to the Board is [Grade 7 Cremona School student, Claire Friesen](#), who [won a bronze medal](#) at the national science fair. The Board sends its congratulations to Claire.

Two [Chinook's Edge bus drivers are also award winners](#). Three of the division's drivers qualified through a regional bus Road-éo held earlier this spring to participate in the provincial bus Road-éo in June. Chinook's Edge brought home two provincial awards. The Board is grateful for a commitment from these drivers, and all drivers, to safe driving.

The Board is pleased to see success in dual credit programming for high school students including the Vet Tech Assistant program at Olds College of Agriculture & Technology. [The first group of students to complete the dual credit program](#) walked the convocation stage earlier this month with other college graduates.

Another first-time, career connections related opportunity occurred recently as well. [The first annual try-a-trade event for Grade 8 students occurred](#) at Olds College of Agriculture & Technology with students from three Chinook's Edge Schools and was successful. The purpose was to allow middle school students to explore opportunities they could experience in career related programs at the high school level. The Board is pleased to see this work related to one of its three strategic priorities: career connections.

Chinook's Edge and Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools [have received \\$20,000 from the Smiles Thru Lindsey Foundation to develop protocols for students who are self-harming or suicidal](#). The intent is to train staff on how to support students and also where to refer them when additional support is required. The Board is pleased to see the coordinated effort with Red Deer Catholic, and the focus on student emotional and mental well-being. The Board sends its thanks to the Smiles Thru Lindsey Foundation.

The Board congratulates and welcomes [Ted Menzies as the new chair of the board](#) for Olds College of Agriculture & Technology. Also the board extends the same well wishes for three new board members: Al Kemmere, Tracy Gardner, and Sarah Hayes.