



Chinook's Edge School Division
Board of Trustees

Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: Boardroom

Attendance

Trustees Present: H. Bilton, M. Copley (online), D. Hutchison (online), G. Kerr, T. Leslie, J. Swainson, L. Wagers (online)

Trustees Absent: S. Cooper, K. Kemmere

Staff Present: L. Woodward - Communications Coordinator, S. Russell - Associate Superintendent Corporate Services, K. Sacher - Superintendent/CEO, S. Babb – Assistant to the Superintendent, S. Westwood - Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair H. Bilton called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement • Treaty 7

Trustee H. Bilton opened the meeting with a Treaty 7 Land Acknowledgement.

Agenda/Minutes Approval

Agenda Approval

Resolution # 20241105001BOT

Moved By: T. Leslie

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

Minutes Approval

Resolution # 20241105002BOT

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the 2024 October 08 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Carried

In Camera

Resolution # 20241105003BOT

Moved By: T. Leslie

Motion to move In Camera at 9:08 a.m.

Carried

Personnel

Resolution # 20241105004BOT

Moved By: J. Swainson

Motion to accept the personnel report as presented.

Carried

Superintendent's Personnel Update

Superintendent K. Sacher provided a personnel update.

Facilities Update

Resolution # 20241105005BOT

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that The Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees approve up to \$100,000 from Capital Reserves to support the construction of the Penhold Elementary replacement school.

Carried

Negotiations Committee / TEBA Update

Superintendent Hiring Process (CAUCUS)

Trustees moved In Caucus at 9:30 a.m.

Information items

Accounts Payable

Visa

New Business

Return to regular meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Break 10:03 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Locally Developed Courses

Trustees reviewed several locally developed courses for approval.

It was asked if the Board of Trustees can do a Delegation of Authority and if so, this item would become an “Information Item”. Associate Superintendent Corporate Services S. Russell will look into this request and report back to the Board of Trustees.

Resolution # 20241105006BOT

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that The Chinook’s Edge School Division Board of Trustees approve this 5th day of November, 2024, the following Locally Developed Course(s):

Guitar 15	3 & 5 Credits (2022-2026)	LDC1568	2025-2026	Feb. 3, 2025	2025-2026
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Guitar 25	3 & 5 Credits (2022-2026)	LDC2568	2025-2026	Feb. 3, 2025	2025-2026
Guitar 35	3 & 5 Credits (2022-2026)	LDC3568	2025-2026	Feb. 3, 2025	2025-2026

Carried

Board School Visits Reminder

Trustees were reminded of the following Board school visits:

November 21 (T. Leslie, M. Copley, G. Kerr)

- Cremona - 9:00 a.m.
- Sundre High & Sundre Learning Center - 10:30 a.m.
- River Valley - 1:00 p.m.

December 10 (G. Kerr, H. Bilton, T. Leslie)

- Ross Ford - 9:00 a.m.
- Westglen - 10:30 a.m.
- Didsbury High - 1:00 p.m.

The local trustee will arrange lunch.

Scheduling Board / Municipality Meetings

The Board discussed scheduling meetings with the following municipalities: this year’s rotation includes: Town of Olds, Red Deer County and the Town of Sundre.

It was recommended that the Board meet with the Town of Olds in November and schedule Red Deer County and Sundre in the New Year. Possible dates for these meetings were discussed and S. Russell will make contact to confirm.

Trustees also discussed having an option of breakfast meetings with municipalities.

Artificial Intelligence Update

Associate Superintendent Learning Services J. Drent provided an update on Artificial Intelligence.

CESD's exploration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) reflects a forward-thinking approach to enhancing educational environments, focusing on differentiation, teacher support, and personalized learning. AI's potential for analyzing large volumes of student data is particularly promising, yet CESD emphasizes the importance of secure and private data handling before fully integrating third-party AI tools or developing an in-house model. Early testing with AI for data analysis has shown encouraging results, with plans to leverage AI insights over the next decade. Additionally, CESD sees AI as a powerful tutoring aid, capable of providing one-on-one support to students without replacing teachers. However, a shift in CESD's culture is necessary to foster understanding and comfort with AI, ensuring that educators and students are equipped to use it safely and effectively. Leadership, including participation in advisory groups like C21, is dedicated to keeping CESD ahead of the curve, balancing innovation with caution. To support this journey, Associate Superintendent Learning Services J. Drent recommends *Brave New Words: How AI Will Revolutionize Education (and Why That's a Good Thing)* by Salman Khan, a resource that may further inspire CESD's vision for AI-driven education.

Provincial Testing Advocacy

Superintendent K. Sacher discussed Provincial Testing Advocacy and the long history of collecting assessment data to deepen understanding of student strengths and challenges related to their development in both Literacy and Numeracy. The Board respects the value of standardized provincial data and supports the continuing of this practice as long as the data is development appropriate, aligns with curriculum expectations and supports teachers planning and instruction to meet the achievement of our students. CESD encourages Alberta Education to make the following modifications to the Early Year Assessment Program:

1. Delay the assessment of grade 1 students in Numeracy and Literacy until late October.
2. CESD is recommending that only at-risk students be assessed in January and May.
3. Put into place more robust Professional Development that is standardized across the province that provides teachers with a deeper understanding on how to analyze their assessment data.

4. Consult with CASS before making significant changes to provincial initiatives.

These recommendations will be added to CESD's advocacy document to ensure clear, actionable messaging to Alberta Education.

Local Authorities Election Act

Associate Superintendent Corporate Services S. Russell presented recent changes to the Local Authorities Election Act, highlighting new rules aimed at strengthening the integrity and public trust in local elections and councils. A consideration for the Board of Trustees is whether to establish a bylaw requiring criminal record checks for candidates. Although a candidate cannot be disqualified based on their criminal record, the information could be publicly shared.

Trustees debated this proposal, weighing both its potential benefits and drawbacks. The Board considered options: implement the bylaw now, postpone until after the next election, or revisit the topic at a later date. The Board agreed to revisit this issue in November 2025, allowing further reflection on its potential impact.

Resolution # 20241105007BOT

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees bring the Criminal Record Check discussion to the November 2025 Board meeting.

Carried

ASBA - Proposed Position Statements

The Board of Trustees reviewed the ASBA proposed position statements with the Superintendent's team feedback.

Recess: 12:06 p.m.

Reconvene: 1:00 p.m.

Mileage Rate

Trustee T. Leslie proposed setting the mileage reimbursement rate at \$0.55 per kilometer, to align with the provincial government's rate. This adjustment reflects a

desire to keep the mileage rate consistent with other government-funded organizations, ensuring fiscal responsibility. The current rate of \$0.70 per kilometer was deemed high for a provincially funded entity, particularly in Alberta, where many similar organizations have adopted rates around \$0.55 per kilometer, and others even as low as \$0.48 per kilometer.

S. Russell noted that date was shared from several other Boards in 2023, and the Board considered what might be most appropriate. Insurance and liability concerns were raised. As a government-funded organization, maintaining alignment with provincial standards was seen as a consistent and transparent approach, as supported by the Boards Guiding Principles Document and the Government of Alberta - Travel, Meal, and Expense Policy.

Resolution # 20241105008BOT

Moved By: T. Leslie

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees direct the Superintendent to use the mileage rate from the Government of Alberta - Travel, Meal and Expense Policy for all Chinook's Edge School Division employees, effective September 1, 2025.

Carried

Superintendent Update

Superintendent K. Sacher provided a written and verbal update on the following:

- Connecting with COLT - Olds High (October 25)
- IL Visits (October 30 to November 1)
- Connecting with COLT - Beacon Hill (November 4)
- Student Services Rubric and 200K Breakdown.

Resolution # 20241105009BOT

Moved By: H. Bilton

Motion to direct the superintendent to clean up the Board Advocacy Document.

Carried

Committees

Audit Committee

No meeting prior to this meeting.

- Cheque review comments:
 - It was noted that the process for reviewing cheques needs to be looked at for efficiencies and to make this task easier on staff.
 - Fiduciary discussions are good to have.
 - Professional development while doing this task

Education Committee (October 22nd)

The minutes of the 2024 October 22 Education Committee Meeting were provided for review.

Resolution # 20241105010BOT

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that the Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees direct the Trustee Onboarding Adhoc Committee to review "Learn ASBA" and take the courses on onboarding and elections and bring back their learning to the Board.

Carried

Facilities and Maintenance Committee (October 29th)

Board representative G. Kerr provided a verbal update from the 2024 October 29 Facilities and Maintenance Committee Meeting. The minutes from the meeting were also provided for review.

Trustees proposed changes to the percentages in the rubric, they also discussed reviewing the capital plan rubric annually.

Resolution # 20241105011BOT

Moved By: T. Leslie

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees accept the Capital Plan rubric as amended and send to the Policy Committee for changes.

Carried

Resolution # 20241105012BOT

Moved By: G. Kerr

Motion that Chinook's Edge School Division Board of Trustees send PL 2 – 01.4.1 Board Committees Exhibit 1 to the Policy Committee to amend the mandate for the Facilities and Maintenance committee to review the capital plan rubric annually.

Carried

Governance Effectiveness Committee

No meeting prior to this meeting.

Policy Committee

No meeting prior to this meeting.

Flourishing Stories and Innovation Adhoc Committee (October 15th)

L. Wagers and D. Hutchison provided a verbal update from the 2024 October 15 Flourishing Stories and Innovations Adhoc Committee meeting. The minutes from the meeting were also provided for review.

Trustee Onboarding Adhoc Committee (October 29th)

Board Representative J. Swainson provided a verbal update from the 2024 October 29 Trustee Onboarding Adhoc Committee meeting. The minutes from this meeting were also provided for review.

Key topics included the availability of nomination packages starting January 1st, and the potential benefit of preparing these materials in advance. The Committee asked for a draft version of the nomination package to be provided for review at the November meeting.

The Board also discussed requesting feedback on the Learn ASBA program and, in November, recommending a communication plan to the Board, with suggestions for spring and June informational sessions for prospective candidates. Trustees considered creating a one-page document themselves, highlighting the Board's successes to include in the nomination package, and setting up an orientation agenda, a comprehensive trustee handbook, and a timeline for onboarding activities.

The onboarding committee reviewed resources from Rocky View, which proposed full-day onboarding sessions, and deliberated whether trustees should focus on recruitment or primarily on onboarding and training.

Health Adhoc Committee (October 29th)

Board Representative T. Leslie provided a verbal updated from the 2024 October 29 Adhoc Health Committee meeting. The minutes from the meeting were also provided for review.

The Board discussed a draft agenda for an upcoming meeting with Minister of Children and Family Services Turton and Minister of Seniors, Community and Social Services Nixon. A key focus was preparing a board-approved messaging document to present CESD's position on Family School Wellness (FSW) funding.

Discussions highlighted the distinction between FSW and FRN, noting that while FRN operates effectively in some communities, its services are inconsistent across others. The committee emphasized that FSW plays a critical role within schools, alleviating administrative loads and directly supporting students and families. A key "ask" for the ministers would be to explore funding options for the FSW program, particularly in schools where FRN programs may not be meeting all community needs. The committee also discussed creating a "leave-behind" briefing note to reinforce CESD's appreciation for the FRN while advocating for sustained FSW support within schools.

Trustees agreed on a focused message, aiming to clearly communicate the board's shared responsibility and interest in collaborating on a new health-support delivery model. The briefing document, to be formatted as an official CESD document, will include financial data and outline the board's commitment to a shared funding model for health-related services. The final messaging document will be reviewed by the Board before the November 12th meeting with the ministers. Superintendent K. Sacher, Trustee T. Leslie and Trustee K. Kemmere will attend the meeting.

Regular Business

Correspondence

No correspondence received prior to this meeting.

Alberta School Boards Association

An update on recent ASBA items was provided.

- The October 21 Zone 4 meeting highlights were attached for review.
- The next Zone 4 meeting is November 25 in Wetaskiwin and is a hybrid meeting.
- The ASBA FGM is being held November 17-19 at the Westin in Edmonton.
- Information regarding the MLA breakfast - advocacy toolkit resources were provided for review.
- Discussion regarding attendance at the MLA/Trustee Dinner on November 18th.
- Virtual training.

Canadian School Boards Association

No information at this time.

National School Boards Association

No information at this time.

Rural Caucus

Board Representative T. Leslie provided an update on Rural Caucus. The annual general meeting is being held on November 17th in Edmonton.

Trustee Professional Development Reports/Conferences

Information Items

Approved Trip Requests

Board Work Plan - 2024/2025

Enrolments

Adjournment

It was noted that for all future Board, Education and Committee agenda's that the Practical Vision, Strategic Assumptions and Guiding Principles be added.

Resolution # 20241105013BOT

Moved By: J. Swainson

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Carried

H. Bilton - Chair

D. Hutchison - Vice Chair

S. Russell - Corporate Secretary