

The Chinook's Edge Board of Trustees is pleased that the division has [received from the provincial government](#), in partnership with Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools, [\\$50,000 towards pre-planning](#) and site confirmation work for a [proposed collegiate campus](#) in Sylvan Lake. The proposed new high school will address enrollment growth in the community, and provide increased career pathways learning experiences for students throughout Central Alberta. This was the top priority on the Board's Capital plan approved at the Board's March meeting.

The Board approved the division's [2026-2029 Capital Plan](#) at its meeting on March 11. The [plan ranks requests](#) for funding, [for new or modernized](#) facilities, [to the province](#) based on current demographics, [anticipated community growth](#), the utilization rate of existing facilities and their condition. The [top ranked item](#) on the plan, a new Grade 10 to 12 high school in Sylvan Lake, is listed as urgently important, with a current utilization rate of 106 percent.

The Board has [appointed Jason Drent as Corporate Secretary](#), effective July 1, 2025. The current Corporate Secretary, Shawn Russell, is retiring.

The Board is pleased that Chinook's Edge has chosen [Chris Adamson](#) as the new [Associate Superintendent of Learning Services](#) starting in the 2025-26 school year. Adamson is currently the Principal of Innisfail High School.

Board Chair Holly Bilton attended a [meeting of school and division administrators](#) earlier this month, to officially [welcome incoming Superintendent Ryan Sawula](#), and [present him](#) with a "where students come first" pin.

Also at the Board's March 11 meeting, trustees discussed the rising cost of transporting students to school. The Board is hoping to see an increase in provincial funding to cover the increase.

Trustees were happy to [meet with the Red Deer County council](#) on March 12. Trustees discussed the Capital plan and explored opportunities to partner.

Staff at Ecole Olds High School and at Penhold Crossing School have both [nominated a student](#) for the [Honouring Spirit Indigenous Award](#) through the [Alberta School Boards' Association](#). Trustees send their [congratulations](#) to [both students](#), and [appreciation for the difference they each make](#) in their schools.

The Board is interested in a [pilot program in Sylvan Lake](#) to support students enrolled in [Life Skills programming](#). Ecole Fox Run School and Ecole H.J. Cody School are [sharing a teacher](#) who leads the program in collaboration with educational assistants. Students who require modified programming in one or more school subjects participate in Life Skills. The board appreciates staff work to meet the needs of all students.

Trustees are also watching with interest, an [innovative approach](#) at Hugh Sutherland School in Carstairs. The school has [introduced three academies](#) in hockey, cheerleading / dance, and [STEAM \(science, technology, engineering, arts and math\)](#). What makes academies at HSS unique from regular option classes is that they involve subject area experts from the community. The school offered hockey academy last year and saw an increase in attendance and marks for students participating.

The Board is pleased to see a wide range of opportunities for students to increase their understanding of other people, and grow in confidence. Recently [Ecole Olds High School hosted](#) the [Horizon leadership conference](#), a [guest speaker for Black History month](#), and an artist in residence for two weeks who helped students think more deeply about the power of images.