

The Board of Trustees for Chinook's Edge School Division has [approved a \\$140.9 million budget](#), with a [budgeted deficit](#) of \$586,647. [Also on May 27, trustees approved](#) the division's [Education Plan](#) for the 2025-26 school year. Both documents are on the [division's website](#).

At its May 13, 2025 meeting, the Chinook's Edge Board of Trustees [celebrated four Chinook's Edge students](#) who [received 100%](#) on their diploma exams in January. The Board also thanked the students' teachers, principals and parents for supporting student success.

Also, the Board, during its May meeting, announced its [selection of Ted Harvey and Kurt Sacher](#) as [recipients of the Roy E. Cope Award](#), given to individuals [who have made a significant impact](#) on the welfare of students. Ted Harvey recently retired after 21 years of service in the Chinook's Edge technology department, and most recently as Director of Technology. Kurt Sacher has worked as an educator for 39 years, and has been the Superintendent of Chinook's Edge for the last 15 years. He retired today. The Board is grateful to both of these individuals for their incredible service to the school division .

At the [May 13th meeting](#), trustees also received an update on pre-K programming in the division. They heard that the early intervention happening in the program results in improvements in the skills of the students participating in the program.

The Board sends its congratulations to Debbie Thompson on her [appointment as President of Olds College](#) of Agriculture & Technology.

Career Connections is one of the top three priorities for the Board and for Chinook's Edge. Trustees enjoy watching the opportunities for students continue to grow. For instance, in April the division began a [hairstyling program](#) that will see students receive training from a Red Seal stylist during the spring, and then work with another Red Seal stylist in a professional salon during the summer. Also, the division has had success with its try-a-trade program at Olds College of Agriculture & Technology and [has now expanded the program](#) to Red Deer Polytechnic, along with its partners in Central Alberta Collegiate Institute (CACI). Try-a-trade allows students in Grades 9 and 10 to get a taste of trades, so they can decide if they would like to participate in high school and dual credit trades programming.

Congratulations from the Board go to Micah Griffin, a student from Olds Koinonia Christian School, who [placed first in a provincial video competition](#), and then [first place at the national level](#). Griffin submitted a safety video he had created to SafeGen, under the umbrella of Careers: the Next Generation. Congratulations from the Board also goes to Cremona School's junior high band. The [band received a gold standing](#) at a [national music festival in Toronto](#) in May.

The Board was also pleased to hear that four Chinook's Edge students were able to attend the [Alberta Skills provincial competition](#) in Edmonton earlier this month, and represented their schools and the division well.

With the priority of Academic Excellence, the Board was pleased to see elementary schools in the Sylvan Lake area work together on a recent professional learning day, to [focus on writing](#). This was the first time educators gathered for this purpose, and the event was successful.

Trustees were interested to hear about several Indigenous residencies underway in schools over the last month. [Penhold Elementary School](#) and [John Wilson Elementary School](#), in Innisfail, both had week-long residencies with students participating in a wide variety of hands-on learning activities, to deepen their understanding of and respect for Indigenous culture and ways of knowing.