

The Board of Trustees and many Chinook's Edge employees have bid a [fond farewell](#) to Kurt Sacher, who [retired at the end of May](#) and who [served as Superintendent](#) for 15 years. Trustees and employees thanked Sacher for his significant contributions, including his focus on relationships.

Also trustees and employees [welcomed the division's new Superintendent](#), Ryan Sawula. Sawula says his first priority is to listen and get out to meet staff in schools.

At the end of June, trustees also [joined in celebrating](#) Associate Superintendent [Shawn Russell](#), who is also retiring, [after a 33 year career](#) in education.

Trustees were pleased to have the opportunity to [celebrate Clancy Pennock](#), a first year teacher at Penhold Elementary School, and the Edwin Parr nominee for Chinook's Edge. The Edwin Parr award recognizes exceptional first year teachers. Trustees and nominees in the Central Alberta zone gathered on May 26 to celebrate the nominees.

Congratulations from the Board also goes to:

- Three Chinook's Edge [bus drivers](#) who finished first, second and third in the regional bus road-eo event. All three were invited to the provincial bus road-eo in Nisku on June 7. [Samantha Smith](#), a [Cremona area bus driver](#), [placed second](#) at the provincial bus Roadeo.
- [Eythan Young](#), a student from Delburne School who will receive a [Schulich Leader Scholarship](#) valued at \$120,000. Young will be attending the University of Alberta in September focused on engineering.
- [Sloane C.](#), a [student from Innisfail Middle](#) School who [won a national design competition hosted by the Orange Shirt Day Society](#).
- [Claire Friesen](#) for [earning a bronze medal](#) at the [National Science Fair held in Fredericton](#), New Brunswick from [May 31 to June 7, 2025](#).
- All of the schools who hosted and participated in [Terry Fox Run Events](#) in the fall of 2024. Collectively schools raised \$23,000 for cancer research. Of all the schools who participated, Carstairs Elementary School raised the most money with a \$4,337.10 donation to the Terry Fox Foundation.
- The Hugh Sutherland School Choir for [winning second place](#) at the provincial music festival.
- Preston, a student from Beacon Hill School, for [receiving the Sylvan Lake Mayor's Distinguished Award](#). Preston is known for his advocacy for Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS).

The Board was pleased to see 31 students in Central Alberta [complete pre-employment, dual credit training courses](#) at Olds College this spring, as a result of the collaborative work of the Central Alberta Collegiate Institute (CACI*). Of the 31 students, 20 are from Chinook's Edge. Thirty students qualified to write the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Exam. Students who pass the exam will be credited with a year of post-secondary training. **CACI is a successful collaboration of four partnering school divisions (Red Deer Public Schools, Red Deer Catholic Regional School Division, Wolf Creek Public Schools and Chinook's Edge School Division), two post-secondary institutions (Olds College of Agriculture & Technology and Red Deer Polytechnic) and CAREERS, a not-for-profit organization that collaborates with schools to connect youth with employers, providing valuable paid internship opportunities.*

Trustees are interested in the growth of the [hydroponics program at Spruce View School](#). The school was successful in its application for a \$20,000 Flourishing Stories and Innovation Grant from the Board a year ago, to purchase hydroponics equipment. Students have been successful with lettuce this spring, and the school plans to expand the program to include more students and a wider variety of crops next school year.

The Board was pleased to see the final of five Indigenous Cultural residencies underway in schools this year. The final one was at [Hugh Sutherland School](#) and involved experiences and increasing knowledge around [Metis heritage and culture](#).