



MEDIA RELEASE

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Board of Education accepts consultant's recommendation for Sector 2 school site

For Immediate Release, October 14, 2010: The Chinook's Edge Board of Education passed a motion to formally accept a consultant's recommendation that any future school in Sector 2 be built in the Town of Penhold.

Chinook's Edge engaged the services of Berry Architecture & Associates to conduct an extensive school study last June, so that the division would be prepared to move forward immediately upon receiving a provincial government funding announcement. The need for a new school in Sector 2, which encompasses communities directly south of Red Deer, has been identified as a priority by the government and has been anticipated in Chinook's Edge for many years.

The school study involved a thorough review of three previously selected sites to determine suitable development options and time frames. Liberty Crossing and the Hamlet of Springbrook were also considered, but determined not to be suitable options because they have minimal project development utilities, roads and grading in place. They also have limited residential development near the sites.

"The site within Penhold was overwhelmingly endorsed in the report, and trustees made a formal motion to accept the recommendation at the October 13 Board Meeting," said Kurt Sacher, Superintendent of Schools. "Now, should the government announce funding, we are ready to move forward in this important transition. Over the years, Penhold has developed a very strong school culture. There are two thriving Chinook's Edge schools already serving the community, and this site is full of exciting potential. After several years of discussions and reviews, this is a positive move forward for Chinook's Edge."

Once funding is announced, it is expected to take an additional three years before construction and development of a new school is complete. The site is located next to the new Multiplex in Penhold, which is ready for development with utilities, roads and site grading, as well as a high degree of community support to allow for a rapid development. Along with site readiness, the report examined such things as accessibility to educational programming and facilities partnerships, wrap-around services and municipal partnerships.

"Another significant factor in this site selection is the demographics of the area," said Board Chair, Ian Taylor. "Penhold has a growing population and projections call for continued growth, which supports future enrolment trends at the new school. This location is well set up for a strong partnership with the local municipality and area organizations to provide a solid delivery of both academic and recreational pursuits. This would serve our students well and we are very pleased."

The Town of Penhold is a growing community of just over 2,000 people, located 13 km south of Red Deer on Highway 2A.

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