

Board of Education: year in review

Last August, Trustees developed a strategic plan outlining priorities for the 2016-2017 school year, and at the final Education Committee Meeting this month they reported on outcomes. The following is a summary of the Board's 2016-2017 strategic plan:

Goal 1: Develop a plan to address the Transportation Deficit by the end of the term.

- Ways to increase revenue and find efficiencies were explored and a conclusion was made that in order to maintain service levels, an annual deficit will need to be addressed through instruction or capital. Service levels may need to be reduced in the future.
- Leasing vs. purchasing buses was explored, but found not to be a viable option.
- A school of choice fee was established.
- Continue to lobby the government regarding the significant cost of transporting students.

Goal 2: Policy Development Plan completed and approved by the end of the term.

- The new policy manual was approved in May.

Goal 3: Review the Capital Planning Process.

- The revised Capital Plan was approved in March.

Goal 4: Develop a plan for Stakeholder Relations/Community Connections.

- Many things are being done, but a full plan with strategies was deferred until next year.

As well, the Board concluded its annual Superintendent Evaluation and met to discuss specific outcomes with Superintendent Kurt Sacher. Overall, the Superintendent continues to meet the high standards that the Board holds for him. His strong personal relationship skills, problem solving skills, positivity and innovative communication and business practices (such as the COLT Roadshow, Superintendent's Advisory Team, Students Matter Committee and the Instructional Leadership model) were cited as examples of positive outcomes.

The Board requested that a priority be placed on literacy and numeracy assessment, to obtain Grade 3 level data which would have been previously derived through Provincial Achievement Tests.

Trustee Sheldon Ball elected Vice President of the Alberta School Boards Association



Sheldon Ball (centre in Board of Education photo above), Chinook's Edge Trustee for Carstairs/Cremona, was elected to the position of ASBA Vice President at the spring general meeting. ASBA is a provincial association of school divisions that provides consulting, programming and resources in support of 'exceptional board governance'.

"Sheldon had the full support of our Board as he put his name forward for this position, and we are very proud of him," said Colleen Butler, Board Chair. "I believe this success grew, in part, from our Board's strong advocacy work and Sheldon's strength in policy and governance. He has the skill and determination to really make a difference."

Currently in his first term as Trustee, Sheldon has taken on the Vice Chair role with the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards, 2nd Vice Chair of Chinook's Edge, Labour representative with ASBA Zone 4 and the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association rep for Chinook's Edge.

"I think ASBA is at a critical point in its evolution, with a new President and Executive Director poised to make great strides forward," said Sheldon. "I ran for this position because I feel I have the skillset that can help the organization meet its goals. It's important work, finding a way to unite 61 school boards in the province – boards that are very different from one another. Setting a strong culture of delivering our best work for students across the province, no matter which school they attend, is really exciting."