

Chinook Board Approves Revised Budget for 2022-2023 Year



On September 12, 2022, the Chinook Board of Education approved the revised budget for the 2022-2023 school year. The school division received \$1.21 million in additional inflationary funding for this year, which was announced by the Ministry of Education over the summer. Due to the increased funding, along with other adjustments, revenues from grants and other will now be \$86.55 million,

which is just over \$1 million more than the previous year's budget.

In following the conditions of the additional funds provided by the Ministry of Education, the Board approved a plan to support various inflationary costs, including fuel, utilities, insurance, and repair and maintenance of buses. Additionally, it allowed the division to hire an additional 10 educational assistants and hire temporary teachers to provide additional learning interventions for the 2022-2023 school year. The total operational expenditures are now at \$93 million, including salary increases and inflationary costs for insurance, fuel and utilities. This will result in a cash deficit of \$3.86 million which will be funded out of reserves to balance the cash budget. This draw on reserves continues to reduce available resources in future years, with operational reserves projected to be down to \$0 in just over two years.

2022-23 Board of Education Goals

The Chinook School Division Board of Education has revised and also developed new Board goals for the 2022-23 school year.

Each of the following five goals include several specific actions and deliverables that will support to the achievement of the goal:

1. The Chinook Board of Education will be accountable to the community by enhancing its visibility and accessibility within SCCs and communities.
2. The Chinook Board of Education will advocate for adequate funding for rural education.
3. The Chinook Board of Education will examine the committee structure and clearly articulate the mandate and authority of each of its committees.
4. The Chinook Board of Education will focus on celebrating agriculture and the important role it plays in people's lives.
5. The Chinook Board of Education will deepen understanding of FNMI culture and ways of knowing.

2022-23 School Year Plan for Stewart Valley Students and Staff

The fire at Stewart Valley School on August 26, 2022 was a devastating and traumatic loss for students, staff and the community of Stewart Valley. During the days immediately following the loss of the school building, Chinook School Division has been working to identify and secure options for Stewart Valley students to attend school for the 2022-2023 school year.

Through the division's consultations and presentation of options, many Stewart Valley families indicated a desire for Chinook to provide a space where the students and staff would remain together as a school, while some families made the choice to register their children at another Chinook school.

After exploring all possible facilities, it was determined that Success School can make accommodations within their space without significant disruption to their school operations, based on the present number of Stewart Valley students moving to the school. Stewart Valley students and staff will be able to maintain their current classroom configurations, while the Success School classrooms will also remain unchanged. The generosity and support of Success School staff and students in sharing their school space is greatly appreciated.

Transportation will be provided for the 2022-2023 school year and Stewart Valley students started attendance in their classes at Success School on Monday, September 12. The administration from both schools are working together to ensure a smooth transition for all students and staff. Transportation will also be provided for the 2022-2023 school year for the individual Stewart Valley School students that have chosen to register at Waldeck and O.M. Irwin schools.

The division would like to thank Stewart Valley School families for their patience, support and input during a very difficult and challenging time for their community, as work was being done to ensure a positive and smooth transition for their children. Thank you to all who have reached out to offer help and solutions for the school.