



Box 1809  
Swift Current, SK S9H 4J8  
Phone Toll Free: 1-877-321-9200  
Phone: (306) 778-9200  
Fax: (306) 773-8011

---

## **Directions Newsletter**

### **Regular Meeting of the Board – October 2015**

#### **Transportation Status Report**

*Presented by Kevin Jones, Manager of Transportation and Facilities*

An overview was provided of highlights in the areas of personnel; route development, maintenance, trends and times; fleet maintenance, new buses and bus operations and repairs; policies and communications; and future plans. The Transportation department aims to provide good customer service, while balancing parental expectations with efficiency and consistency in the application of the Transportation policy. Recently, the Transportation Administrators took part in a Lean event that resulted in many efficiencies and process improvements.

Chinook is continuing to meet the benchmark of maintaining a capital budget to keep the bus fleet at 10 years or newer. 14 new buses were purchased in 2014-15, as well as one 15 passenger van. New Buses have been ordered, including three 53 passenger buses, five 35 passenger buses and seven 30 passenger buses; and a tender for the purchase of five 15 passenger vans will be sent out soon as well.

For the current year of 2015-2016 Chinook School Division buses have a total of 166 routes, including rural and urban, Pre-kindergarten to grade 12. A total of 2,990 students are being transported on these routes currently. Rural routes travel approximately 25,320 total kilometres per day, with an average length of 211 kilometres.

There are continuing challenges in the area of driver recruitment, as we have a shortage of spare and full time route drivers. We have done extensive advertising for the positions and will continue to make this a priority moving forward. The Transportation Department is also receiving a growing number of requests outside of policy that have been adjudicated at the Transportation Standing Committee meetings.

The Transportation Department acknowledged the Board for approving additional funding of \$450,000 for the purchase of 4 extra buses for this fall, this demonstrates a commitment to providing a reliable and efficient fleet of buses for the students of Chinook School Division. The Board has also approved \$200,000 to complete some of the more urgent repair work that includes minor renovations at both the Shaunavon and Maple Creek Bus Garage facilities.

Rilling Bus Ltd. has now completed year one of a three-year transportation contract for services to the Swift Current city schools. A redesign project of the existing Swift Current City routes started in the spring of 2014 and was implemented in the fall of 2014. We are currently in year two of a three-year route reconfiguration plan. This current school year saw the recent closure of Ashley Park and Oman Schools. The redesign project saw the overall number of city buses and routes reduced due to the ability to consolidate the routes of two school divisions (Chinook and Holy Trinity). In 2016-2017 we will further adjust the city routes to accommodate the grade reconfiguration at Central School to transport students to include the new K-8 grade structure.

## **Official 2015-2016 Enrolments**

*Presented by Liam Choo-Foo, Director of Education*

The official September 30<sup>th</sup> enrolment for Chinook School Division in 2015-2016 is 5,788, which is a decrease of 87 students from last year. Chinook had a projected decrease of 29. With home school students included, there are 5,910 total students in Chinook.

There were some significant areas of increase within the division: École Centennial is up by 43; Wymark increased by 13; and Tompkins and Herbert have also increased by 10 and 7 respectively. The decreases this year included Sidney Street in Maple Creek, mostly due to out-migration of families; as well as SCCHS, Waldeck, Gull Lake and Fairview.

Chinook will continue to monitor the enrolments to determine if some of the changes are trends or anomalies.

## **“Classroom Champions” - Shaunavon Public School**

The Board welcomed a delegation of Grade 7 students from Shaunavon Public School, along with their principal, Mr. Dale Ross. The students, Bayle Szwet, Bryden Tremere, and Kinae Wallis, presented information on the “Classroom Champions” program they are participating in thanks to a renewed sponsorship by Crescent Point Energy.

The grade 7 class at Shaunavon Public School is participating in Classroom Champions this year with athlete mentors Justin Smith and Tristan Walker, a doubles luge team, who we were introduced to the class by last year’s mentor, Sam Edney. Classrooms receive a monthly video message from the mentors along with a challenge towards meeting that month’s topic. They then work as a group towards learning about the topic and how to incorporate it into everyday life. Classroom Champions employs two former teachers who help build resources and capacity of participating schools and teachers to meet the goals of Classroom Champions within the curriculum and the classes they teach. The program has also, over the last four years, contributed technology to the schools in the form of tablets and an apple tv.

Targeting grades Kindergarten through 8, Classroom Champions brings Olympians, Paralympians and Olympic/Paralympic games hopefuls (Athlete Mentors) into the classroom using videos and live chats. A kind of 21st century pen-pal, each athlete mentor adopts 3-10 classrooms per year. Focusing on their own personal journey, athletes teach about the hard work of training, goal setting, competition and perseverance.

### **Education Week October 18-24, 2015**

Education Week will be celebrated in Saskatchewan October 18-24 with the theme “Celebrating Each Student”. Education Week provides an opportunity to celebrate student success and recognize the dedication and commitment of education professionals across the province. Visit [studentfirstsk.com](http://studentfirstsk.com) to find how schools around the province are putting the Student First in everything they do.

### **Fox Valley SCC Financial Request**

Chinook School Division received a request of the Fox Valley School Community Council (SCC) to donate \$500.00 to support their Open House and Presentation by John Dunn, “Wilderness Explorer, Photographer published in National Geographic, and a lover of Canada’s Arctic”, on October 14, 2015. Through the use of his breathtaking photography, he will be discussing goal setting and problem solving with the students and staff during the school day with a second presentation at the Open House.

### **Future Maverick School Site**

The Chinook School Division is obtaining a capital loan from RBC Royal Bank to partially fund the cash costs related to the expansion/renovation project at the former Kin School site that will house Maverick School in the near future.

### **Fairview School Portable**

A bid was approved by the Board from Silverline Construction to relocate the 2013 portable classroom from the former Oman School site to Fairview School.