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Directions Newsletter Regular Meeting of the Board – March 2015

Athletics Status Report

Presented by Deb Reamer, Athletic Coordinator

The Chinook School Division area matches our SHSAA Southwest district. The purpose of the South West Athletic Conference (SWAC) is to plan, supervise and administer inter-school athletic activities in the SWAC of Saskatchewan, including play-offs leading to section, district, conference, regional and provincial level championships. There is a SWAC information section on the Chinook School Division website, and a Twitter account @swacsports for posting upcoming events and results.

The following are SHSAA sanctioned Senior (high school) sports: Golf, cross country, soccer, football, volleyball, basketball, curling, wrestling, badminton, track and field. Junior programs offered within Chinook include volleyball, cross country, basketball, curling, badminton, and track and field, as well as some golf and junior football teams. Chinook continues to have high participation rates and have extremely high participation levels compared to urban centers. Most students have the opportunity to play on the sports teams of their choice, as there are very few try-outs or team cuts.

Every school (non-Hutterian) that offers grades 7 and up has an athletic director, which is a voluntary position. The athletic director attends SWAC meetings and acts as a liaison between the school and the organization.

- There are more than 275 junior and senior coaches (grades 6-12) who are teachers. Some of these coach more than one sport.
- Chinook has over 50 community coaches, including non-teaching staff members
- There are 50-75 Officials (not including students who officiate)

The Swift Current Comprehensive High School (SCCHS) will have a busy fall in 2015 as they host both the 3A girls soccer and 5A boys volleyball provincial championships. For track and field events, the new track at SCCHS has provided SWAC athletes with a top-notch facility and is much appreciated. SWAC is still looking at the feasibility of hosting provincial track and field.

The SHSAA has introduced a New Policy for Interschool Competition with the purpose being to encourage schools to adopt a varied athletic program. This means that seasons have a start and finish date and there will be a maximum number of contests, limits per day, and time and distance limits.

There is an athletics information area within the Chinook website as well as links to the SWAC website. Parents, students, community members and school staff can all find a calendar and weekly updates in this area. SWAC has a Twitter account (@swacsports) for upcoming events, info and results as well.

Hutterian Status Report

Presented by Mark Benesh, Superintendent of Hutterian Schools

Chinook has built a very respectful and positive relationship with the colonies. Brethren leaders, German teachers, colony administrators, teachers, and staff; as well as Chinook Education Centre staff work together to educate Hutterian youth, while supporting their way of life. Colony representatives meet with Chinook on several occasions and communication has been very effective, our positive relationship is continuing with the Brethren.

The Board supported all colony teachers and educational associates in attending the annual Saskatchewan Hutterite Educators Association (SHEA) conference. The Brethren is very appreciative of Chinook's support of the SHEA conference, where principals, teachers, educational assistants, German teachers and ministers can get work together in supporting Hutterian schools and their students.

We have developed a Teacher Assistance Team (TAT) process to assist Hutterian teachers to identify possible interventions and supports for students in a more systematic and nimble manner. Two learning coaches, two coordinators and the superintendent make up our team. We also include the nominating teacher and have a group of supporting teachers from which we choose one (based on geography) to be a part of the process. The feedback by the nominating and supporting teachers to date has been extremely positive due to the benefit of the interventions for students.

Colony schools are grouped into five professional learning communities (PLC). The focus for this year is to develop capacity in math. Last year the focus was on problem solving. This year, in combination with the TAT process, the focus is moving those students who might test red or yellow in either math or in reading into the next level. The majority of the PLC time is now scheduled outside of school time.

The learning coaches have been instrumental in improving instruction for our colony teachers. They continue to make an impact within our Hutterian classrooms in all aspects. Once again they have made over 300 classroom visits between the 2 coaches. The majority of the visits have focused on Math (demo lessons on Guided Math, math activities, math centers, small & large classroom instruction and math stretches) or for new teachers to Chinook in Balanced Literacy. They have also been involved in some student services work for these teachers. They provide an additional set of eyes to help assess some of the difficulties students are having learning. The feedback from colony administrators and teachers has been extremely positive on the work the Learning coaches are doing. Student Services has also been impressed with the work they have been tasked to do within this area as well. They play a key role within our Hutterian TAT process as well as being part of the EAL committee and the future EAL teams supporting non-Hutterian schools.

We presently have 30 colonies within Chinook. We will grow to 31 colony schools with Sierra Colony (Bench split) whose start-up date is November 2015, and there will be more to come in the next few years. The general sense is that the population will be somewhat stable, but it will drop from 552 students this year to 543 students in 2015-2016. Nine schools have population increases, twelve schools have population decreases and nine schools will stay the same.

Chinook has a continuing positive relationship with the Brethren. The Learning Coaches are supporting colony teachers and students with Math and Literacy, and they have been very effective in helping our young and new teachers adapt to their new colony school settings. There has been an increase in specialists visiting and supporting Hutterian schools as well.

Chinook School Division Strategic Plan

In the Board's leadership role for the Division, they have committed to an annual strategic planning process. As a result, they have created a school division strategic plan for 2015-16, giving direction to our schools as they do their planning for the 2015-16 year. These plans are also aligned with the provincial education sector plan.

Within the 2015-16 Division Strategic Plan, the Board has highlighted the following areas for Chinook to focus on:

- Implementing *Saskatchewan Reads* leading to improvements within Balanced Literacy.
- Implementing successful Math interventions for struggling students.

The long term outcomes for the overall Division Strategic Plan are:

- By June 2020, 90% of students will be meeting or exceeding Chinook expectations in reading, writing and math.
- By 2017, 100% of SCC's will be actively engaged and aligned with the ESSP.
- By 2020, Chinook's graduation rate will be 90%.
- By 2020, 90% of Chinook students exiting kindergarten will score within the appropriate range in the cognitive domain, language and communication domains as measured by the Early Years Evaluation (EYE).
- By June 2017, the Board will have implemented strategies that will annually ensure efficiency of budget, compliance to policy and legislation, as well as alignment to the ESSP.

For those interested in the provincial education sector plan, it was developed collaboratively with Public School Divisions, Catholic School Divisions, Conseil des écoles fransaskoises, First Nations, Métis, Ministry of Education, School Boards and students. The goal of the strategic plan is to enhance the experience and achievement of all Saskatchewan students using a Student First approach to focus our work on what matters most (the student).

Board Support of School Community Councils

Chinook School Division received a request from the Frontier School Community Council (SCC) to donate \$500.00 in support of the Musicplay program. Musicplay also provided a grant to cover 50% of the program cost. The program includes music and digital resources to support student learning and music teachers.

The National Congress on Rural Education event will be in Saskatoon March 29-31 with the theme "Celebrating Rural Schools: Looking Back and Looking Forward". The Board agreed to support Chinook SCC members who have applied to attend this conference. The National Congress on Rural Education is celebrating its twentieth year as the national forum in support of children and youth attending schools in rural and remote communities. Topics will include: Diversity in Rural Schools, Partnerships supporting programs/services, Effective school and community councils, Early childhood education, Social media in schools, Social and Emotional learning, Promoting mental health in Rural Schools, Programs and Services for First Nations Students, Recruitment and Retention of Staff, Leadership and Governance, Technology for improved programming, Student Leadership, Programs for effective student learning, and Finance and Efficiency.

Kindergarten Registration for 2014-2015

The Chinook School Division is very excited to welcome new kindergarten students and their families for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year.

Kindergarten Registration Week for all Chinook Schools is March 9-13, 2015.

- Kindergarten eligibility is age 5 by December 31, 2015.
- Parents must bring proof of child's birth date (Birth Certificate) AND Sask Health Card.

Please check chinooksd.ca or contact your local school for specific dates and to register your child.

Chinook School Division Annual Meeting: March 23, 2015

The Chinook School Division Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Chinook Education Centre in Swift Current, with a satellite location in Frontier.