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Directions Newsletter

Regular Meeting of the Board – October 2014

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.

Chinook is continuing to meet the benchmark of maintaining a capital budget to keep the bus fleet at 10 years or newer. For 2014-2015 fourteen new buses have been ordered, this included nine 36 passenger buses, five 48 passenger buses; as well as one 15 passenger van that is out to tender.

The number of buses that did not run due to weather decreased significantly last school year from the previous year that had a winter with exceptionally extreme weather conditions. From 299 days (1.21%) in 2012-2013, there were only 171 days (0.7%) that buses did not run due to weather in 2013-2014.

For the current year of 2014-2015 Chinook School Division buses have a total of 166 routes, including rural and urban, Pre-kindergarten to grade 12. A total of 3,076 students are being transported on these routes currently. Rural routes travel approximately 24,780 total kilometres per day, with an average length of 208 kilometres.

The Transportation Department acknowledged the Board for approving additional funding of \$360,000 for the purchase of 4 additional buses. This initiative demonstrates a commitment to providing a reliable and efficient fleet of buses for the students of the Chinook School Division.

Rilling Bus Ltd. was awarded a three year transportation contract for services to the Swift Current city schools starting in September 2014. A redesign project of the existing Swift Current city routes started in the spring of 2014 and was implemented this September. This new plan 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 Catholic). The Transportation department will need to further modify the Swift Current

city routes to accommodate the closure of Ashley Park School and transport these students to the new K-8 program at OM Irwin School.

Chinook bus driver Gary Ford was present at the Board meeting to receive a special Long Service Recognition award for 47 years. Gary is a very dedicated employee and has hardly missed a day of work since he started driving at the young age of 18. Gary and his wife Peggy live on a farm near Maple Creek.

Official 2014-2015 Enrolments

Presented by Liam Choo-Foo, Director of Education

The official September 30th enrolment for Chinook School Division in 2014-2015 is 5875, which is an increase of 5 students from last year. This is good news for Chinook, as there was a projected decrease in numbers. With home school students included, there are 6,011 total students in Chinook.

There were some significant areas of increase within the division: Fox Valley is up by 10; Frontier increased by 19; and Herbert and Leader have also increased by 9 and 15 respectively, after experiencing decreases in those two schools last year. The decreases this year included Wymark and Shaunavon, mostly due to out-migration of families. Maple Creek has had a decline in the past, however that trend has stopped at this point and they are basically maintaining enrolments at both schools.

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

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 Steve Harmer "Courage, Character and Caring" on October 15, 2014.

Central School Accessibility

The Board accepted the base bid from Hipperson Construction Ltd. (Regina), of \$1,171,000.00 and the Alternate-3 bid of \$35,16.00 for the Central School elevator addition project tender. Three bids for the Tender were submitted from Regina and one from Saskatoon. The elevator will be built on to the school to increase accessibility for people with disabilities.

Notice of Special Meeting: October 27, 2014