
Directions Newsletter
Regular Meeting of the Board – March 2016

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. The feedback by the nominating and supporting teachers to date has been extremely positive due to the benefit of the interventions for students. We have also set up mentors for all the new personnel, including one formal and four informal.

The English as an Additional Language (EAL) Committee is made up of Hutterian and non-hutterian teachers, administrators, our learning coaches, coordinators and led by the superintendent. We are working on systemic responses and supports for all Chinook schools when receiving or working with new EAL students. The committee has identified specific resources and has provided professional development to build teacher capacity in this area of instruction, and learning coaches have supported several schools and teachers in EAL. We have developed a Chinook philosophy for EAL students, a student assessment, an information booklet and power point on supporting refugees, and we are presently reviewing and refining an approach to technology. We are also working to develop EAL credits that will be more accessible to all Chinook students.

Colony schools are grouped into five professional learning communities (PLC). The focus for this year is on both *Saskatchewan Reads* and Math. The majority of the PLC time is now scheduled outside of school time. One of the groups has added a focus on writing, with some excellent results and may provide some guidance as writing becomes both a Chinook and provincial initiative.

The learning coaches have been instrumental in improving instruction for our colony teachers and 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 *Saskatchewan Reads* (demo lessons) and in math, and also in Guided Math and in

Balanced Literacy for a few new teachers. They have also been involved in some student services work for these teachers, providing an additional set of eyes to help assess some of the difficulties students are having in learning. The feedback from colony administrators, teachers and student services has been extremely positive on the work the learning coaches are doing. They play a key role within the Hutterian TAT process as well as being part of the EAL committee and the future EAL teams supporting non-Hutterian schools.

There was an expansion from 31 colonies in 2015-2016 and we will grow to 32 colony schools in the 2017- 2018 school year. There will be a 13 student drop for the upcoming year, from 543 students in 2015-2016 to 530 students for 2016-2017.

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.

Athletics Status Report

Presented by Deb Reamer, Athletic Coordinator

The Chinook School Division area matches our SHSAA Southwest district. The South West Athletic Conference (SWAC) has been in existence since 1951, with the purpose 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, and track and field. Junior programs offered within Chinook include volleyball, cross country, basketball, curling, badminton, and track and field, as well as some junior football. Chinook continues to have high participation rates, especially compared to urban centers.

The Current executive (2015-17) includes: President – Alisa Cooper (Cabri), Vice President – Janna Walker (SCCHS), Treasurer – Trish Carleton (Ponteix), Secretary – Tyson Krause (Maple Creek), and Officials Rep – Tyson Krause (Maple Creek). 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. SWAC also has Chinook liaisons, including a board member and administrator.

- There are more than 215 junior and senior coaches (grades 6-12) who are teachers. Some of these coach more than one sport.
- Chinook has approximately 50 community coaches, including non-teaching staff members.
- There are 50-75 Officials (not including students who officiate).

In 2015-16, SWAC hosted Provincial 3A girls soccer in Swift Current; Provincial 2A 9 man football in Shaunavon; and 5A boys volleyball in Swift Current.

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.

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 and approved a school division strategic plan for 2016-17, giving direction to our schools as they do their planning for the 2016-17 year. The plans are aligned with the provincial education sector plan.

Within the 2016-17 Division Strategic Plan, the Board has highlighted the following areas for Chinook to focus on:

- Implementing *Saskatchewan Reads* leading to improvements within Balanced Literacy by June 2017.
- Implementing high impact writing instructional strategies by June 2018.
- Researching and practicing strategies and structures to engage the 21st Century Learner by June 2018.

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.

The provincial education sector plan 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.