



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 – September 2014

Facilities and Maintenance Status Report

Presented by Kevin Jones, Manager of Facilities and Maintenance

Chinook maintains over 30 buildings in the Division. In 2013-2014, the Maintenance department completed 1,981 work requisitions. Every year the Maintenance Department completes an assessment of all school facilities within Chinook. They are rated out of 100% according to criteria that includes Electrical, Plumbing, Structural, Roofing, Accessibility, Exterior Conditions, Health and Safety, Yard Site Development, Interior Finishes and Functionality. In the past nine years, 28 out of 29 schools (97%) have shown an increase in their overall facility rating.

The new Preventative Maintenance and Repair (PMR) funding is now in the second year. PMR is allocated based on the total gross area of all schools, and Chinook School Division is receiving \$873,000 for 2014-2015. This type of funding, combined with previous budget allotments, will allow Chinook to plan and complete renovation projects internally without Ministry delays. PMR projects must be approved by the Board and follow the criteria set out by the Facilities Branch.

The department is working as a team to ensure work gets done on time and that there is regular communication with the schools. They take pride in their work, and have received accolades from the schools and communities expressing appreciation for the work that is done.

Math Status Report

Presented by Ed Varjassy, Curriculum Coordinator

Chinook has had an 11% increase in the number of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the year-end assessment in June 2014. This is a combined three-year increase of 29%, surpassing our goal of a 25% increase one year ahead of schedule.

2013-2014 was the third year of the Math Momentum initiative and we have provided professional development, training and coaching on the Guided Math framework of instruction to all K-8 teachers throughout last year.

Over the course of 2013-2014, teachers have been learning about and changing their classroom to align with the Guided Math framework of instruction. Chinook classrooms are becoming Guided Math classrooms.

Last spring a math intervention plan was developed to support students that fall behind or need additional support in math. We have developed an intervention for Kindergarten-Grade 2, which follows similar principals as LLI (Leveled Literacy Intervention). In addition we have identified a program called “Do the Math Now” to support struggling students in grades 6-9.

In response to feedback and a high volume of teachers needing math coaching, the coaches continue to play a significant role by supporting and coaching teachers in their classrooms, assisting with developing intervention plans and planning for the final year of Math Momentum.

On August 27, 2014, Chinook provided professional development for every math teacher in the Division. The coming year will focus on continued coach support that allows teachers to solidify their Guided Math classrooms, giving them additional time in utilizing the Guided Math framework. We have also developed a Math Intervention plan that we will be implementing this year.

We will be working with our coaches and lead teachers to develop a long term Math Momentum maintenance plan. The plan will consider what needs to be done in order to maintain the achievement gains that we have made. This plan will be presented for consideration in the spring.

In 2014-2015 our two remaining curriculum days will take on a new look. Teachers will not travel into Swift Current for one large group professional development day. Instead we have responded to their feedback and will have teachers remain in their own schools for these days. They will focus their professional development on learning more about the various components of Guided Math. The shift in professional development will allow teachers time to imbed the practices they have learned the last 3 years.

Opening Day Enrolments

Presented by Liam Choo-Foo, Director of Education

The enrolment numbers often change daily in the first month of the school year, therefore official numbers will be released after September 30, 2014. At this point, it appears that Chinook has 5868 students and will be down by about 2 students from last year. There were 13 less students in the Hutterian Schools, and an increase of 11 students in our community schools. These are general trends and numbers will be more accurate at the end of the month.