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Directions Newsletter Regular Meeting of the Board – March 2017

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.

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 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. The SWAC administrator representative is Kyle McIntyre, and the board representative was Tim Ramage until November 2016 and is now Susan Moulard. Val Gordon (Eastend) is the SHSAA president.

SWAC is divided into three geographical areas called sections:

- a) **Cypress Hills** – Maple Creek High, Fox Valley, Burstall, Leader, Hazlet, Cabri, Success. Reps: senior – Errol Campbell (Leader); junior – Darren Lehmann (Fox Valley)
 - b) **Rolling Hills** – Swift Current Comp, Irwin, Stewart Valley, Gull Lake, Herbert, Hodgeville, Vanguard, Ponteix, Waldeck, Wymark, Ecole Centennial, Central. Plus All Saints. Reps: senior – Janna Walker (SCCHS); junior – Geoff Horn (Wymark); SCCHS rep – Andrew Herrick.
 - c) **Whitemud** – Consul, Eastend, Frontier, Shaunavon, Val Marie. Reps: senior and junior rep Riley Zielke (Shaunavon).
- There are more than 325 junior and senior coaches (grades 6-12) who are teachers. Some of them coach more than one sport.
 - Chinook has approximately 50 community coaches, including non-teaching staff members.
 - There are 50-75 registered officials (not including students who officiate) for volleyball, football, soccer and basketball.

In 2016-17, SWAC has hosted regional soccer, regional volleyball (3), provincial football semi, regional curling and will host regional badminton as well. In 2017-18 SWAC will host provincial 1A volleyball (girls) and regional wrestling.

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 the team. The feedback by the nominating and supporting teachers has been extremely positive due to the benefit of the interventions for students. Mentors have also been set up for all new personnel and the superintended visits schools as often as possible, with a focus on new staff or those needing supports.

Colony schools are grouped into five professional learning communities (PLC). The focus for this year is to continue working with *Saskatchewan Reads* as well as maintenance work in math, both with a focus to move students who test red or yellow into the next level. The PLC groups also have individual focuses, including working with students on inferencing, main ideas, writing, basic computation and problem solving. 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 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*, as well as student services work. 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. The coaches play a key role within our Hutterian TAT process as well as being a key EAL support for public schools across the Division. All colony schools receive support in their schools from their literacy coach, the curriculum coordinator or superintendent. They may also go into another teacher's classroom (lead teacher) for a demo lesson.

There was an expansion from 31 colonies in 2015-2016 and we will grow to 32 colony schools in the 2017- 2018 school year. The general sense is that the Hutterian population is on a decline, and dropped to 509 students in 2016-2017. This results in a drop of 43 students over 3 years, and a drop of 150 students over the last 10 years.

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 and there has been a decrease in student absenteeism as well.