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Directions Newsletter

Regular Meeting of the Board – October 2016

Transportation Status Report

Presented by Kevin Jones, Manager of Transportation and Facilities

An overview was provided of highlights in the areas of personnel, budget, route development and maintenance, fleet maintenance, new buses, 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.

15 new buses were purchased in 2015-16 and Chinook is continuing to meet the benchmark of maintaining a capital budget to keep the bus fleet at 10 years or We are currently at an average of 7.39 years for the entire fleet. In July 2016, an RFP for busing solutions was accepted from Legacy Bus. Some of the initiatives that are expected from this process will be an adjustment to “right-size” the Chinook bus fleet. The expected outcome will result in a reduction of operating and maintenance costs and a newer overall fleet.

The Board approved minor renovations to four bus garages, including various projects for the bus garages in Shaunavon, Maple Creek, Swift Current (parking plug upgrade) and Fox Valley. The Board also approved the development of a bus fueling area at the south side of the Waldeck school yard site. This demonstrates a commitment by the Board to support a reliable, well-maintained bus fleet for students in the Chinook School Division.

In September 2015, a committee was established to help support a smooth startup of the Swift Current schools’ transportation services at the beginning and into the school year. The committee members are school administrators, Division senior administration, Rilling Bus representatives, school office managers and members of the Transportation Department. The committee has created an evergreen document that the stakeholders follow and the process has proven to be very successful.

The Transportation Department also implemented the use of a “Transportation Request Form” to be completed by parents in order to receive services, as well as to ensure effective communication and the safety of the students. This form, as well as updates and other information, can be accessed in the “Bus Information” banner on the Chinook website.

For the current year (2016-2017), Chinook School Division buses have a total of 161 routes, including rural and urban, Pre-kindergarten to grade 12. A total of 3,090 students are being transported on these routes, including 1,689 rural and 1,401 urban students. Rural routes travel approximately 25,510 total kilometres per day, with an average route length of 218 kilometres.

Six new fifteen passenger vans were purchased for Hodgeville, Vanguard, Valmarie, Cabri, Eastend and Ponteix schools. The Transportation Department, in conjunction with Rilling bus, is currently providing training for staff members of these six schools. Chinook has partnered with the Saskatchewan Safety Council to have three individuals trained to provide comprehensive 15 passenger van training to all Chinook schools with vans, including updated training for the nine schools that had vans previously.

There are continuing challenges in the area of driver recruitment, as we have a shortage of spare and full time route drivers. We have done extensive advertising for the positions and will continue to make this a priority, in partnership with Rilling Bus Ltd. The Transportation Department looks forward to finding additional solutions resulting in improved services for the students in Chinook School Division. We greatly appreciate the support of the Board and senior administration as well as the communication from the schools and bus drivers, as it is all very crucial to our services.

Official 2016-2017 Enrolments

Presented by Liam Choo-Foo, Director of Education

The official September 30th enrolment for Chinook School Division in 2016-2017 is 5,867, which is an increase of 79 students from last year. Chinook had a projected increase of 10. With home school students included, there are currently 5,999 total students in Chinook.

There were some significant areas of increase within the Division: schools in the city of Swift Current are up 83 students, including 40 more students at SCCHS and 32 more at Central. Sidney Street School in Maple Creek increased by 17 students, Frontier increased by 13, and Consul and Hazlet increased by 12 and 11 respectively. The decreases this year included Ponteix, Shaunavon High School, Irwin, Wymark, Waldeck and Gull Lake; and there are 24 less students in the Hutterian schools.

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

Education Week October 16-22, 2016

Education Week will be celebrated in Saskatchewan October 16-22 with the theme “Celebrating Today, Preparing for Tomorrow” / “Célébrons le présent, préparons pour l’avenir”. Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students and the dedication of our education professionals this week and throughout the year. This year’s theme: *Celebrating Today, Preparing for Tomorrow*, is about

recognizing student achievement and teaching excellence that occur each day in our Saskatchewan schools while continuing to prepare our students for a brighter future before and after graduation. Watch #SKedweek to see the activities and celebrations happening in Saskatchewan schools throughout the week.

Board Contributes to Fox Valley School Community Council

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 Stride Physio and Performance, on October 20, 2016. The presentation will be on complete concussion management and aligns with the School's wellness goal.

Prairie Learning Centre Partnership

The Prairie Learning Centre teacher position has become unexpectedly vacant and limited successful candidate recruitment is anticipated for this term position. In addition, the current and projected fiscal situation will restrict Chinook School Division's ability to sustain ongoing contributions for the operation of the PLC. Considering all factors, the Board made the decision to terminate the Division's participation in the Prairie Learning Center, effective October 11, 2016.

Trustee Receives Long Service Award

Chinook School Division Board member for Sub-division 4, H.B. (Bernie) Ford, received a Long Service Award for serving the students of Southwest Saskatchewan as a Trustee for 40 years. The Board wishes to congratulate Bernie for his commitment to students and families.