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Directions Newsletter Regular Meeting of the Board – October 2017

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.

The 2016-17 Operating Budget was \$11,130,659. This includes \$866K in additional funding allocated for the purchase of buses:

- 20 new buses were purchased for \$1.57M
- 16 used buses were sent to Legacy Bus for resale; 6 buses were sold for \$204K
- 10 decommissioned buses have been sold for \$23K

Items that affect budget include fuel and oil prices, cost of repairs, maintenance and salaries. There was an Operational budget overall surplus of \$580K or 5.21%.

- Buses drove a total of **3,842,274 kms** in 2016-2017
- Buses transported **3349** students in 2016-2017
- Average rural route time is **64.5 minutes**

We are maintaining our bus fleet at 10 years old or newer, currently at 7 years for the entire fleet, and are in the process of right-sizing the buses in order to reduce operating and maintenance costs. In June 2017 Rilling Bus completed the third and final year of their transportation contract with Chinook for the city schools, and they are now in the two-year extension portion of the contract.

There were a few employee highlights in 2016-27. Derrick Larson is now the Foreman at the Swift Current Bus Garage, with the retirement of Dale Hovdestad; Bryan Smith, Mechanic at Shaunavon Bus Garage, completed his 4th year Apprenticeship and achieved his Journeyman designation; and Michael Winsor, Mechanic at Maple Creek Bus Garage, is enrolling in first year Automotive Mechanic Apprenticeship program.

The Swift Current schools transportation committee was successful with a smooth startup and the school year is going well so far. Formed in September 2015, 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 continues to utilize the “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.

Six new 15 passenger vans were purchased for Hodgeville, Vanguard, Val Marie, Cabri, Eastend and Ponteix. 16 schools now have passenger vans and training for new vans and enhanced training has been done for staff at the schools.

The Transportation Department looks forward to finding additional solutions resulting in improved services for the students in Chinook School Division. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support from the Board and senior administration as well as the communication from the schools and bus drivers, and the support from the mechanics as it is all very crucial to our services.

Official 2017-2018 Enrolments

Presented by Kyle McIntyre, Director of Education

The official September 30th enrolment for Chinook School Division in 2017-2018 is 5,969. The total includes 5352 public students, 493 students in Hutterite colony schools and 124 home schooled students. Overall there are 30 fewer students than last year, with 16 less colony students, 8 less home schooling students and 6 less students in our public schools.

There were some significant areas of increase within the Division: Wymark increased by 20 students, Ponteix went up by 14 and École Centennial had 23 more students. The notable decreases this year included Fairview (-18), Frontier (-12), Gull Lake (-19), Herbert (-14) and Maple Creek Composite (-16).

Currently there are no teaching staff adjustments necessary at any of our schools. Chinook will continue to monitor the enrolments to determine if some of the changes are trends or anomalies.

Education Week October 15-21, 2017

Education Week will be celebrated in Saskatchewan October 15-21 with the theme “*Building our Future by Learning Together*” / “*Apprendre ensemble pour bâtir notre avenir*”. Education Week provides an opportunity to celebrate student success and recognize our dedicated professionals across the province.

Saskatchewan schools and divisions celebrate the achievements of our students and the dedication of our education professionals this week and throughout the year. This year’s theme, *Building our Future by Learning Together*, 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 on social media to see the activities and celebrations happening in Saskatchewan schools throughout the week.

School Bus Driver Appreciation Day is celebrated on the first day of Education Week, Monday October 16, 2017. This day is observed to recognize the important role that school bus drivers play in safely transporting students to and from school.