



PARENTS MATTER HIGHLIGHTS

Trustees: (back row) Sherry Cooper, Ron Fisher (Vice Chair), Colleen Butler (Chair), Superintendent Kurt Sacher, Connie Huelsman
(front row) Sheldon Ball, Trudy James, Jackie Swainson, Holly Bilton, Gordon Kerr

October 27, 2015:

The Parents Matter Committee came together with the Board and Central Office staff for the first meeting of this school year. A major focus of the meeting centered on 'The Story of David', an uplifting story of a student from Delburne Centralized School and his journey from challenged learner to Valedictorian. Superintendent Kurt Sacher relayed the story as an example of the power an effective school team can have on an individual's life, and how this particular story of success involved an entire school community. Everyone from David's parents and teachers, to the school's caretaking staff, admin assistants, technology staff and educational assistants came together to support David's goals. His triumph is a reminder of 'our responsibility as a school division and the impact a great team can have in changing a life for the better forever. It is also clear that the safe and caring culture of a school is critical to success.' A full feature on this story is included in the current edition of the *Chinook's Edge Advantage* newspaper.

Also at the meeting, committee members reviewed the Resource Allocation Working Group (RAWG) watchlist and how it is continually monitored to ensure the greatest impact from limited government funding. In the Board's ongoing priority to engage the parent community in Chinook's Edge, discussion also focused on ideas for increasing networking opportunities for Parents Matter. Committee members were reminded to ensure they invite a replacement to attend any meeting they are unable to be present for, and they were each 'assigned' the homework of attending at least one School Council meeting before the next Parents Matter meeting.

A significant amount of time was spent discussing the 'question box' activity, where committee members provided a specific question to Central Office staff in advance of the meeting so that thorough answers could be explored. This information can be found under the "Question Box" link on the Parents Matter section at www.cesd73.ca.



Trustee Holly Bilton, Parents Matter Committee Chair, thanked committee members for their continued commitment to the initiative. The next Parents Matter Meeting will be scheduled to take place early in 2016.