



*Chinook's Edge School Division No. 73*  
**Parents Matter Committee Meeting**  
*Tuesday, October 27, 2015*  
*Board Room – Division Office*  
*Question Box*

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- 1. What did Chinook's Edge learn from the safe and secure incident in Sylvan Lake this September? What steps will be taken to address this learning and make improvements for future events?**
  - Background Information: During the month of September, the RCMP initiated two different 'Secure Our School' events in our Sylvan schools. The first process (September 17) affected all schools in Sylvan. The second process (September 22) involved Fox Run only. In both instances, text and email alerts were sent out to parents to inform them of the events. 'Secure Our School' simply means that students are kept inside the school at the request of an external organization. (The RCMP for example, because of a situation underway in the community which has the potential of impacting the safety of our students and staff.) In any given year, we see (on average) 12-15 of these events across the division. Schools also hold annual drills to practice for these events.
  - Each time we secure our schools, our central office leadership team is involved. We also debrief following the event to ensure our procedures were followed and to see if we can learn from the event itself. Keeping everyone in our schools safe is the Number 1 priority in Chinook's Edge.
  - Following both the September 17 and September 22 Sylvan events, schools were commended for following protocols and keeping student safety as a focus.
  - There were two key learnings from these September Sylvan processes:
    - Our school leaders and staff are outstanding at what they do. During these events, our Sylvan staff kept students calm and ensured minimal disruption to learning. For the most part our days continued as normal. School leaders kept in constant contact with the Superintendent's Office.
    - We still have work to do in communicating the difference between 'secure our school' and 'emergency lockdown' with both our parents and public. Several parents were under the impression that these September events were emergency lockdowns. As a result, we shared a document that explains the difference and posted it on the CESD website. In addition, during the months of October and November, our safety officer will be updating one page emergency response summaries in all CESD schools. These one-pagers also highlight the difference between 'secure our school' events and 'emergency lockdown' events.
  
- 2. Sylvan Lake schools are noticing an increase in the amount of paperwork required for any off-campus events. Understanding the need to protect everyone's interests, are there ways to simplify the current processes for both parents and teachers in order to**

**allow our children to enjoy the opportunities provided by field trips and other types of excursions?**

- The process has been streamlined over the past year based on feedback
- There continues to be required paperwork for field trips to meet the requirements in the admin procedures
- We continue to look at ways to further streamline the process including the use of online permission forms.

**3. How can we streamline communication between the teachers, students and parents? Currently some teachers use Edmodo, Power School, agenda or a combination of.**

- We suggest that the primary conversation be with school teachers or administrators to identify methods that are working for families, or provide suggestions that may be more effective.
- There are many different tools used in Chinook's Edge to facilitate communication, which allow our staff to send out information in a timely manner.
- We are pleased to see many forms of communication with our school communities- AlertSolutions, email, PowerSchool, etc to inform parents of our practices and ensure teamwork for the betterment of each child.

**4. Please outline the differences between School Council and School Fundraising Committee.**

See Page 38 at

[http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/resource/resmgr/PDFs/Alberta\\_School\\_Council\\_Resou.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/resource/resmgr/PDFs/Alberta_School_Council_Resou.pdf)

Please note that it is not necessary for a school to have a fundraising society. The recordkeeping and reporting can be onerous for parent volunteers, particularly when changes in society executive occur. Fundraising can be done through the school records.

If a society exists, separate minutes, etc. are required.

**5. Is charging for rural busing possible and if so has it been considered?**

**I am a little out of the loop now, but while we live on the outskirts of town, our son was eligible for rural busing once he started at Deer Meadow. The bus often ran with very few students because they choose an alternate way to get to or from school. The division office was surprised when I called to say he would no longer be using the bus service as he was driving himself, apparently nobody opts out of a free service. If there was a charge for the service or a rebate for opting out, maybe routes could be**

**shortened or run more efficiently. In our case there was one family who also lived close to town but on a different road, they seldom rode on the bus but the bus had to travel a significant distance to service them making the route longer for all the students that did ride.**

**Even encouraging families that seldom use the service to opt out could create a significant savings.**

We currently do not charge a fee to students that we receive funding for on rural routes. Some School Divisions do charge a fee to all riders, both urban and rural. The Board and the transportation department will be looking at ways to continue to provide quality transportation services for our students and to reduce the costs associated with providing both urban and rural transportation services. The Board could decide to charge a fee for all riders. However, the Board has not considered this option to date.

- 6. Some feedback that we could be doing better in life skill education i.e. 1) money management 2) sex education that links parents ~ curriculum & schools ~ Alberta public health resources to spur age appropriate discussions 3) studying strategies.**

**Is this something that should be addressed with individual school administrators or at CESD level?**

Study Strategies - there is no formal curriculum for study strategies, however classroom teachers typically address this with their students. Many of our high schools, through the high school redesign process are deliberately teaching study strategies in the flex time provided for students.

Sex Education -Human sexuality education is offered in Grade 4 to Grade 9 as a mandatory component of the program of studies: A variety of resources are used based on the grade level, school, and community. In partnership with Alberta Health Services, we have access to a Comprehensive School Health facilitator who supports us with resources and expertise related to health and wellness: <https://sites.google.com/a/cesd73.ca/cesd-wellness-education/home> ,

Money Management: The CTS programs of study have a cluster of courses called BIT (Business, Administration, Finance & Information Technology). This cluster contains courses specific to finance. As with all CTS courses however, they are available, but optional for students. Each high school has its own approach and emphasis towards these courses.

<b>Enterprise and Innovation (ENT) - 15 courses</b>		
ENT1010: Challenge & Opportunity	ENT2010: Analyzing Ventures	ENT3010: Managing the Venture
ENT1020: Elements of a Venture Plan	ENT2020: Financing Ventures	ENT3020: Expanding the Venture
ENT1910: ENT Project A	ENT2030: Marketing the Venture	ENT3910: ENT Project D
	ENT2040: Create the Venture	ENT3920: ENT Project E
	ENT2910: ENT Project B	ENT3950: Advanced Practicum
	ENT2920: ENT Project C	
	ENT2950: ENT Intermediate Practicum	
<b>Financial Management (FIN) - 25 courses</b>		
FIN1010: Personal Financial Information	FIN2020: Retail Accounting 1	FIN3010: Advanced Accounting
FIN1015: Accounting Prep	FIN2030: Retail Accounting 2	FIN3020: Management Accounting
FIN1020: Accounting Cycle 1	FIN2040: Accounting Software	FIN3030: Capital Accounting
FIN1030: Accounting Cycle 2	FIN2060: Personal Taxation	FIN3040: Financial Statements
FIN1910: FIN Project A	FIN2070: Payroll Accounting	FIN3050: Small Business Taxation
	FIN2910: FIN Project B	FIN3060: Financial Analysis
	FIN2920: FIN Project C	FIN3070: Financial Planning
	FIN2950: FIN Intermediate Practicum	FIN3080: Personal Investment Planning 1
		FIN3090: Personal Investment Planning 2
		FIN3910: FIN Project D
		FIN3920: FIN Project E
		FIN3950: FIN Advanced Practicum

7. **One question that we had brought forward from the high school was a parent was wondering what the student transportation policy is to both sporting events and school events off of school grounds both during and after school. Specifically they are being told that students can only drive themselves, can they drive siblings? Parents are being told if they can to drive other students...but staff are not allowed, why are other parents able to take the responsibility but not the teacher?**

Students cannot drive any other student to events including siblings. Staff can drive but they need to ensure that they have the proper insurance and complete the required paperwork. (AP 5-06 Transportation of Students in Private Vehicles - the Driver Registration Form needs to be completed)