

Gathering division-wide input at a Parents Matter meeting

The Board of Trustees and Central Office Leadership Team joined with several parents from throughout Chinook's Edge at a special online meeting on the evening of March 17. The Learning Services Team has been connecting with parents for the last few years to glean input on specific items, such as curriculum and pandemic disruption. That core group invited interested parents and guardians from their school community to join the expanded Parents Matter gathering, where they provided a great deal of valuable input!

A culture of collaboration

"We are here together because you matter to us, and our connection helps our students achieve success - we all care about these kids," said Superintendent Kurt Sacher.

"We are determined to regain our footing, and find our joy again, after two years of the pandemic. We are moving forward together, and our school staff need parental support and involvement. You are partners in student success in Chinook's Edge and we need your energy to push our momentum forward."



Parents Matter! Camaraderie and conversation was shared at the online meeting on March 17.

What we shared:

Chinook's Edge principals and school staff are dealing with some students who have experienced learning loss over the past two years, while others have struggled with intermittent attendance which has made it difficult for them to catch up. Some are doing very well through this, but many need support in their social emotional development. To that end, through support from the Board, Chinook's Edge has created a [Social Emotional Team](#).

Some parents reported that effective study habits, teamwork skills and exam preparation skills seem to have been lost with some of our upper middle school or high school students. They want to know how best to address these issues together, at school and at home. Parents were happy to know this is part of what will be addressed by the six new Social Emotional Specialists, who are at work throughout the division to provide strategies to teachers regarding specific situations. They reported feeling pleased that there is a sound plan for moving forward.

What we heard: (watch for further information on how Chinook's Edge is addressing these items)

- * Great excitement at being back to in-person learning and parents are happy to be volunteering in the school. Some parents are recently seeing the inside of their child's school for the first time!
- * Concern about what another COVID wave and a return to restrictions would do to students and communities.
- * Parent Councils are keen to get back to fundraising for school projects and want clarity on what's possible. They feel schools are coping with a general challenge with funding, which affects many things including class sizes.
- * There seems to be more material coming home - more communication directly with parents - which is welcome.
- * We all want our kids to achieve - what more can we be doing to support our schools. Parents want to know the plans to help bridge the learning gap - not just for their own kids, but for the whole school community - and wanted to know how parents can contribute.

This conversation will continue, as Chinook's Edge works to gather parental input through various sources.