



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

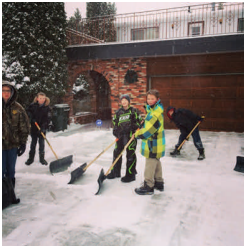
December 10, 2014



Merry Christmas

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Riverview Middle School



When the snow flies, Riverview Middle School Junior High PE classes combine getting their heart rates up and engaging in community service. Neighbourhood residents are extremely pleased with having their driveways and sidewalks cleared and are very grateful for the generosity demonstrated by the students.



John Maland High School



Congratulations to the John Maland High School Drama Troupe for their amazing performance of Annie: the Musical. The acting, singing and dancing were superb; the students responsible for sound and lighting were awesome and finally, the Cosmetology students did an excellent job on the hair and makeup. The turnout from the community and surrounding communities to see a holiday family classic was amazing! What a fantastic way to lead us into the Christmas season!

LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Board directed Administration to change Administrative Procedure 562 (Student Transportation to School-Related Activities) requiring employees and volunteers to have a minimum of \$2,000,000 third party liability insurance back to a minimum of \$1,000,000 third party liability insurance, but highly recommend that employees or volunteer drivers have the \$2,000,000 insurance coverage.



PROPOSED 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The Board directed Administration to release the proposed 2015-2016 School Year Calendar to be distributed for feedback. Consolidated feedback from school staff and School Councils is to be submitted by January 30, 2015.

FIELD TRIP REQUESTS



The Board gave final approval for the field trip request from Riverview Middle School. The field trip is a sailing trip to the British Columbia Gulf Islands from March 25 to 28, 2015 for 27 Grade 9 students with two supervisors.



The Board gave approval in principle for the field trip request from École J.E. Lapointe School. This field trip is to Ottawa, Trois-Rivières, Quebec City, and Montreal from June 23 to 28, 2015 for 49 students from Grades 6, 7 and 8 with one teacher supervisor and parents.

The Board gave final approval to Leduc Composite High School for the student service learning trip to Peru, South America. The trip is from March 26 to April 6, 2015 for 17 Grades 10 to 12 students with two supervisors.



The Board gave final approval to the request from March 26 to April 4, 2015 for 34 Grades 10



from Leduc Composite High School. The trip is to Italy to 12 students with five supervisors.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Associate Superintendent Andres stated that the new Education Act will require Black Gold Regional Schools to implement an Audit Committee. Administration is recommending an Audit Committee be formed with work to commence September 1, 2015.

The Board directed Associate Superintendent Andres to implement an Audit Committee with work to commence September 1, 2015.

Audit Committee.

SCHOOL VISITS



Trustees and Superintendent Yanitski attended school visits on November 27, 2014 to the following schools: Robina Baker Elementary, Riverview Middle and John Maland High; and December 3, 2014 to the following schools: École J.E. Lapointe, École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High, Black Gold Outreach – Beaumont, and École Dansereau Meadows. Trustees enjoy the visits and feel very welcome at the schools.

CUPE 1674 MAINTENANCE STAFF WAGE REOPENER

Associate Superintendent Andres stated that in a Letter of Understanding attached to the collective agreement with CUPE 1674 Maintenance Staff, the Board agreed to conduct a wage review of surrounding like-sized school jurisdictions. Administration met with CUPE representatives, and presented for Board approval, a recommendation of changes to the wage grid effective September 1, 2014.

The Board accepted the recommendation for the following increase in the CUPE 1674 Maintenance Staff Wage Schedule effective September 1, 2014:

Maintenance Worker	\$22.94 – \$27.45
Trades Worker 1	No change
Trades Worker 2: Electrical/Mechanical	\$33.98 - \$35.84
Trades Worker 2: Mill Work	\$33.80 - \$35.66
Master Tradesman: Electrical/Mechanical	\$34.13 - \$37.48



ALBERTA LEADERSHIP DELEGATION—CHINA



Superintendent Yanitski commented on the proposal presented last June from Alberta Education to send five school divisions as part of a leadership delegation to China. The purpose of the trip was to promote an exchange between Alberta school administrators who are modelling the Inspiring Education initiative. Members from our Division that attended the trip were Superintendent Yanitski, Associate Superintendent Romanchuk, Paul Wozny, Principal, Leduc Composite High School and Matthew Kierstead, Principal, École Coloniale Estates School.

The group presented a Powerpoint of the delegation's work in China. Superintendent Yanitski mentioned that members from China may be coming to Alberta in March, 2015.

Lisa Beamer on Good Morning America – you may remember, she is the widow of Todd Beamer who said 'Let's Roll!' and helped take down the plane over Pennsylvania that was heading for Washington, DC back on 9/11. She said it's the little things that she misses most about Todd, such as hearing the garage door open as he came home, and her children running to meet him.

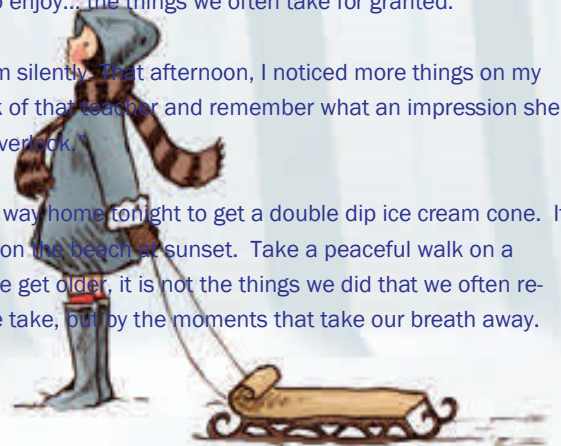
Lisa recalled this story: "I had a very special teacher in high school many years ago whose husband died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after his death, she shared some of her insight with a classroom of students. As the late afternoon sunlight came streaming in through the classroom windows and the class was nearly over, she moved a few things aside on the edge of her desk and sat down there.

With a gentle look of reflection on her face, she paused and said, 'Class is over. I would like to share with all of you, a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important. Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment. Perhaps this is heaven's way of telling us that we should make the most out of every single day.'

"Her eyes, beginning to water, she went on, 'So I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school, or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see, it could be a scent, perhaps of freshly baked bread wafting out of someone's house, or it could be the sound of the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground. Please look for these things, and cherish them. For, although it may sound trite to some, these things are the stuff of life — the little things we are put here on earth to enjoy... the things we often take for granted.'

The class was completely quiet. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently. That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester. Every once in a while, I think of that teacher and remember what an impression she made on all of us, and I try to appreciate all of those things that sometimes we all overlook.'

Take notice of something special you see on your lunch hour today. Stop off on the way home tonight to get a double dip ice cream cone. If you are planning a Christmas vacation to a warm destination, go barefoot and walk on the beach at sunset. Take a peaceful walk on a bright, sunny winter day and enjoy the beauty of each sparking snowflake. For as we get older, it is not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do. Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year