



BLACK GOLD
REGIONAL
DIVISION NO. 18

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

January 14, 2015



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Black Gold Bus Contractors' Association

One of the Black Gold bus drivers, Laura Ohlmann thought it would be a great idea to raise awareness for prostate cancer through the Movember campaign. Laura and her husband built mustaches for the front of each of the buses operated by bus contractor Lynn Ohlmann. Every bus got its own unique mustache. Almost \$3,000 was raised for prostate cancer research.

The Black Gold Bus Contractors' Association wanted to create a very special Christmas experience for a family in the community which is experiencing health concerns. The bus contractors, as well as some Division Office staff, donated gift cards, toys for the children, baskets and cash. Almost \$1,000 was raised to support the family.



Black Gold Outreach School

Cody and Cole Jackson from Black Gold Outreach School were very successful competing at the 2014 PetroChallenge in Sherwood Park. The brothers placed 18th out of 76 teams from across Alberta. They also won the Team Sportsmanship Award - what an honour! The team showed impressive business sense and worked hard during the simulation. This was the first time our school has participated in this event and the guys have set the bar high! Great work boys!



Calmar Secondary School

Congratulations to teacher, Darren Roth, and Calmar Secondary School for being recognized in the Edmonton Journal for providing the top in Industry Standard learning. Calmar Secondary students have medaled every year over the last 4 years at Skills Canada Provincials and Nationals including several Gold Medals. Extensive Partnerships with NAIT and businesses have supported the program as they see the benefits of their future students and entrepreneurs learning at such a high level.

Calmar also brings students in from Thorsby and Warburg to learn these skills in machining and CNC (Computer Numerical Controlled) Milling. The advanced math and programming skills required exemplify Alberta Education's Engagement and Entrepreneurial, 21st Century Learning. These skills are also transferrable to other programs. Expanding these student learning opportunities has supported the continuation of the High School Program at Calmar Secondary School. The Modernization Project Plans include emphasis on CTS and the addition of a Theatre and Fitness room. Fabrication, Fitness and Fine Arts exemplify 21st Century Learning opportunities allow students to explore strengths and interests in an engaging, entrepreneurial and ethical school community.



The Edmonton Journal story was produced as a result of Careers: The Next Generation.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/Trades+Alberta+Calmar+school+best+machines+around/10456785/story.html>

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

École Bellevue School

There was plenty of excitement amongst the students and staff at École Bellevue School on December 16, 2014. Bellevue won a visit from Olympic Triathlete Paula Findlay. She gave an inspirational presentation to the school community. The visit was sponsored by the Alberta Medical Association Run Club program and Ever Active Schools. Global TV and local media were in attendance.



Leduc Composite High School

The Leduc Composite High School production and performance of the musical "Hairspray" on December 12, 13 and 14, 2014 in the Maclab Theatre for the Performing Arts, was a huge success with incredible performances by students. The show was very popular with the community and the students received standing ovations at every performance. We thank LCHS teachers and producers, Jim Nahrebeski and Don Steenwinkel for their superb efforts, leadership and long hours of rehearsal. We also thank the many volunteer students, parents, and community members who helped make this show a success.



FIELD TRIP

Associate Superintendent Romanchuk presented a field trip request for final approval from École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High school. This field trip is to France, Belgium and the Netherlands, March 27, 2015 – April 6, 2015 for 23 students from Grades 11 and 12 with three supervisors.



Discussion was held regarding the recent situation in France. There has been no travel advisory as of yet set by the Canadian government. The supervisors have spoken to the school tour company, and the school is hosting a parent night to discuss the trip.

The Board stated that they can approve the trip but it can also be cancelled should circumstances warrant this.

The Board gave final approval to the field trip request from École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School. This field trip is to France, Belgium and the Netherlands, March 27 to April 6, 2015 for 23 Grades 11 and 12 students with three supervisors.

SCHOOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Associate Superintendent Romanchuk gave a brief outline of the School Emergency Response terminology. This information is being distributed to parents and guardians.



SCHOOL VISITS

Trustees and Superintendent Yanitski attended school visits on January 8th to New Sarepta Elementary, New Sarepta Community High, and Leduc Composite High. The tour guides were awesome. Trustees were impressed with the MedSci Program at LCHS.



VTRA PROTOCOL SUPPORT



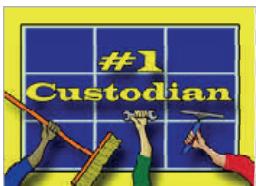
Division Principal Norm Dargis introduced Patti Hill, Manager of Leduc and Area Regional Collaborative Services. The Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol is a framework to conduct a data driven assessment of a threat, worrisome behaviour or violent act involving students. This framework also identifies the help needed by those involved and steps to be taken to coordinate a multi-agency collaborative response to meet those needs. The Protocol allows agencies to quickly share critical information about a student while acting within the spirit of various relevant privacy legislations. In supporting the VTRA Protocol, it provides our responders a common language and common process, and a clear pathway in a time of crisis.

In order to have a coordinated response to assessing violence, or threats of violence, the Black Gold Regional Division No. 18, St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic School District No. 38, Evergreen Catholic Separate Regional Division No. 2, Alberta Child, Youth and Families Mental Health, Human Services and the RCMP have prepared a common approach using best practices.

A VTRA Protocol signing event will be held March 4th at the Maclab Centre for the Performing Arts at 5:00 p.m. The public evening is a critical point in the communication plan. Trustees thanked Ms. Hill for providing information on the Protocol which will help protect our students.

The Board gave support to sign the Leduc and Area Violence/Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol.

TEAMSTERS LOCAL



Associate Superintendent Romanchuk presented a Letter of Understanding for the Teamsters Local Union 987 of Alberta (Custodial staff). The Collective Agreement states that employees who only work a small number of hours are to pay required union dues, but the Letter of Understanding will waive that requirement for casual employees who work 16 hours or less in a calendar month.

The Board approved the Letter of Understanding as presented for the Teamsters Local Union 987 of Alberta (Custodial staff).

CLASSROOM MACHINE REPLACEMENTS



Associate Superintendent Andres stated that in 2008 there was a grant received from Alberta Education to purchase new classroom computers. This equipment now needs to be replaced. Barry Scheelar, IT Manager, and Ray McCubbing, Education Technology Consultant, are requesting funding to replace classroom computers at an approximate cost of \$850 per computer. This will include the machine, wireless keyboard/mouse, monitor and three (3) year warranty.

The Board authorized the Technology Department to proceed with an RFP (request for proposal) for replacement and upgrade of all Veriton computers for all schools in Black Gold Regional Division No. 18. There is a total of approximately 649 machines at an estimated cost of \$850 per machine.

ANNUAL COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

Superintendent Yanitski announced that the Annual Council of School Councils Meeting and Parent Night will be held on March 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. hosted at École Dansereau Meadows School. The presentation will be by International Keynote Speaker, Simon Breakspeare. The topic of the evening will be “Global Trends in Education: Preparing Black Gold Students for Their Future”.



EDUCATION ACT REGULATORY REVIEW

Superintendent Yanitski stated that Black Gold is reviewing the proposed new Regulations which will take effect with the proclamation of the new Education Act. Some of the Regulations discussed were:

- Alberta School Foundation Fund Regulation: Eligible student criteria – the 1st day of September, the student is at least five (5) years six (6) months but less than 22 years of age.
- Disposition of Property Regulation
- School Councils Regulation
- School Fees Regulation, need formal process for waiving fees
- Student Transportation Regulation – 2.4 km is removed, will have to establish criteria



ELECTORAL WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

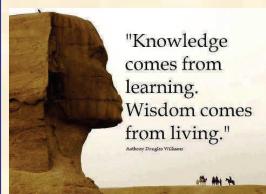
Boundary Review

Superintendent Yanitski distributed an update of the process and meeting dates for the electoral ward boundary review. Open houses will be held in two different locations in April, one in Calmar and one in Nisku, where statistics will be presented. Trustees requested that the Consultant prepare more than one proposed recommendation prior to the public information meetings.

WISDOM – it is the worthiest attribute to chase after. It is more than knowledge and intellect, which is found in books. Wisdom is the thing of life. Its ways and insights can only be earned by living life with eyes wide open, with awareness. And sadly, many of us live our lives without ever finding it. It's as if we are groping in the dark for a destination that eludes us.

Wisdom requires reflection and solitude, which most of us refuse to do ~ but when we do and are able to find even a kernel of wisdom we get peace...peace of mind. We are able to see things in a different light, and in the enlightenment, we are kinder, softer people. We are able to forgive our enemies because they are people just like us. We are able to put others first because we know everyone is in a struggle with someone or something too. We smile at strangers, and we learn to let the little things go so that we can be blessed by what's important in this temporary journey of life.

You want to know what might be the best thing about wisdom? We can put it on in layers...like warm clothes that protect us from the cold. Wisdom can be gathered as we go about our lives. And if we are paying attention, then we will know to wrap it around ourselves in preparation for the next storm.



*Never mistake knowledge for wisdom.
One helps you make a living;
the other helps you make a life.*

*Our days are
happier when we
give people a bit
of our heart
rather than a
piece of our
mind.*