



BLACK GOLD
REGIONAL
DIVISION NO. 18

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

February 10, 2016



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Club Moo – Alberta’s School Milk Program

Congratulations to Robina Baker Elementary School for participating in Club Moo, Alberta’s school milk program, for the past ten years. This school has been recognized by Alberta Milk for reaching a major milestone with Club Moo. Since most elementary schools do not have cafeteria facilities, these schools make an extra effort to offer a milk program. Thank you to the school staff and volunteers for their hard work and contribution to the health and well-being of our students.



Terry Proskurniak Scholarship

Terry Proskurniak, a former Warburg School student, donated \$25,000 towards the creation of scholarships for graduates of Warburg School for five consecutive years. The scholarships Proskurniak has created will help deserving students with their post-secondary education – a continued education that some students might not be able to experience otherwise. Successful applicants of the Terry Proskurniak Scholarship must have: received a high school diploma from Warburg School; a minimum average of 70%; been accepted into a post-secondary program; and demonstrated a genuine commitment to academics, co-curricular activities, and citizenship/volunteer opportunities at school or in their community.



Terry Proskurniak, Donor and Bill Romanchuk,
Associate Superintendent, Learning Services.

On behalf of Warburg School and the Black Gold Regional Division No. 18, thank you to Terry Proskurniak and all of our scholarship donors for their generosity and support. The scholarships that BGRD is able to distribute support the next generation and invests in tomorrow's legacy.

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Superintendent Yanitski presented the proposed Draft 2 - 2016-2017 School Year Calendar. The calendar is balanced with 91 days of instruction in the first semester and 91 days of instruction in the second semester.

Trustee Eilander thanked Administration and Cindy Villeneuve for the time and effort put into the process for the draft calendar. Trustees also thanked staff and School Councils who reviewed the draft calendar and provided feedback.

The Board approved Draft 2 of the [Black Gold Regional Division 2016-2017 School Year Calendar](#) which is posted on our website.



Alberta Education revised the 2017 Provincial Achievement Test schedule after the Board approved the BGRD calendar, therefore, the June 2017 PAT dates will be updated on the BGRD calendar. A revised BGRD calendar will be distributed and posted when details are finalized.



AP 520 FUNDRAISING & AP 526 CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Associate Superintendent Andres presented changes to the Administrative Procedure 520 Fundraising and Administrative Procedure 526 Charitable Donations. As directed by the Board, clarification was provided on fundraising and donation procedures. These procedures are practices that Black Gold Regional Division adheres to. BGRD is a registered charity approved by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), therefore, all funds raised through fundraising activities and donations must comply with the associated legal and administrative requirements of the Income Tax Act.

Associate Superintendent Romanchuk stated that these clarifications outline the procedures for all fundraising on behalf of BGRD. Superintendent Yanitski thanked Associate Superintendent Andres and the Finance Department for researching the information set out by the CRA that BGRD must follow.

The Board requested that the Administrative Procedures 520 Fundraising and 526 Charitable Donations be reviewed by the Policy Committee who will report back to the Board.



M OF A – CUPE 3484 SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF

The Board ratified the Memorandum of Agreement with CUPE #3484 School Support Staff. The Agreement includes:

- ◆ Greater clarity on the requirements for a certificate or diploma to be recognized
- ◆ Employer portion of ASEBP benefits increase from 94% to 95%
- ◆ Library clerks moved from the School Secretary classification to the Library Tech classification
- ◆ Three Year agreement until August 31, 2018
- ◆ 2% salary grid increase effective September 1, 2015
- ◆ 1% salary grid increase effective September 1, 2016
- ◆ 1% salary grid increase effective September 1, 2017
- ◆ Letter of Understanding—to explore the possibility of changing classification titles



ASCA

The Board approved the financial support for the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Conference (April 22–24, 2016) as follows:



- ◆ 50% of ASCA Conference Registration for up to FOUR (4) School Council members, and;
- ◆ 100% of ASCA Conference Registration for ONE (1) School Council member in the first year of School Council formation.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Superintendent Yanitski stated that School Boards have been asked to review the *Municipal Government Act* and provide feedback to ASBA as changes to the Act will be introduced in the Legislature this spring, with debate to conclude in the fall of 2016.

Trustees discussed the Act and some of the changes that need to be made.

There was concern on the process that municipalities follow to obtain school sites for school boards. Administration has had some discussions with the municipalities but will continue to inquire about the process.

The Board will send a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to express concerns regarding the *Municipal Government Act* review and possible amendments, and to request school boards to be included in the consultation process. Copies of the letter will be sent to MLAs, municipalities and STAR Catholic Separate Regional Division.

DIVISION OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF

The Board directed Administration to provide:

- ◆ 2% salary increase to Division Office Support Staff effective September 1, 2015
- ◆ 1% salary increase effective September 1, 2016
- ◆ 1% salary increase effective September 1, 2017
- ◆ Employer portion of ASEBP benefits will increase from 94% to 95% effective March 1, 2016.



FSLW

The Board directed Administration to provide:

- ◆ 2% salary increase to Family School Liaison Workers (FSLW) effective September 1, 2015
- ◆ 1% salary increase effective September 1, 2016
- ◆ 1% increase effective September 1, 2017
- ◆ Employer portion of ASEBP benefits will increase from 94% to 95% effective March 1, 2016.

DEVON HOCKEY PROPOSAL



The delegation of John Maland High School (JMHS) Principal Darren Caldwell, JMHS Assistant Principal Jill Mattock, Riverview Middle School (RMS) Principal Brian Scott and RMS Assistant Principal Richard Dechaine, attended the meeting to present the Devon Hockey Proposal.

Principal Caldwell stated that the Administration of JMHS and RMS had an opportunity to meet with a Hockey Academy that would like to bring their program to the Devon schools. There would be benefits to the schools and the community for the hockey program, as well as a draw for other students in the area. The schools would be able to offer more course selections as a result of increased enrolment in the schools.

Principal Scott stated that they have looked at the alignment of the hockey program with timetabling and increasing option times and they don't anticipate any negative effects. Both Principals agreed that it is always great to have more students.

Principal Caldwell stated that other staff is in agreement to bring the program and it would be open to other Black Gold students from grades 8 to 12. The Director of the Hockey Academy has indicated that they are looking for a ten year commitment to build their program. The Finance Department is researching the insurance requirements for accepting the program.

Trustee Koroll mentioned that the Town of Devon is in support of the program which is for male and female students, and tryouts would be required.

Superintendent Yanitski thanked the staff for attending the meeting to provide clarification.

The Board of Trustees would be supportive of the Devon Secondary Schools exploring the addition of the Hockey Academy.

The Black Dot

Hope you
enjoyed your
Family Day!

One day, a professor entered the classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin. The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers. To everyone's surprise, there were no questions—just a black dot in the center of the sheet of paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following: "I want you to write about what you see there".

The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task. At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud, in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the center of the sheet. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain: I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot—and the same happens in our lives.

We have a white piece of paper to observe and enjoy, but we always focus on the dark spots. Our life is a gift given with love and care, and we always have reasons to celebrate—nature renewing itself everyday, our friends around us, the job that provides our livelihood, and the miracles we see every day. However, we insist on focusing only on the dark spot—the health issues that bother us, the lack of money, the complicated relationship with a family member, the disappointment with a friend. The dark spots are very small when compared to everything we have in our lives, but they're the ones that pollute our mind. Take your eyes away from the black dots in your life.

Enjoy each one of your blessings, each moment that life gives you. Be happy and live a life filled with love!