



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

November 27, 2019



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

École Beau Meadow School Socktober Success

When Socktober began as a Leadership Club project, the École Beau Meadow School (EBMS) goal was to collect 200 pairs of socks for charity. More importantly, students were encouraged to consider those in our community and area who were less fortunate and could not easily afford such basic items.

Classroom teachers promoted personal qualities like generosity, empathy and citizenship as students proudly brought in their donations. The EBMS final tally was 1,140 pairs of socks!

Congratulations to EBMS students and staff for their amazing charitable determination!



*Teacher & CREW Leader - Mr. Henderson
& CREW Student Member - Kiptynn*

West Haven Public School

The West Haven Public School (WHPS) CREW team has been working hard, rallying the love and generosity of the school community through participation in a couple of community service projects - the WE Scare Hunger Food Drive and SOCKtober.

With the WE Scare Hunger Food Drive, WHPS staff and students were able to donate a staggering 787 lbs. of food to the Leduc Food Bank.

Knowing that socks are the least donated item to those in need, Mr. Henderson's CREW team and school community made this year's sock drive a truly memorable event for many people! In a truly amazing fashion, 2,368 pairs of socks were donated over the course of the eight day event! All of the donated socks are being distributed among several charitable agencies in and around the Leduc area including the Leduc HUB, the Bissell Centre, and WIN House.

Congratulations to WHPS students and staff for their extraordinary community service!

NEW HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT



Associate Superintendent Andres announced that Alberta Education has approved design funding for a new 1600 capacity high

school in the City of Leduc. Administration will be meeting with Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure shortly to discuss the project.

WARBURG HUTTERITE COLONY SCHOOL GRAD

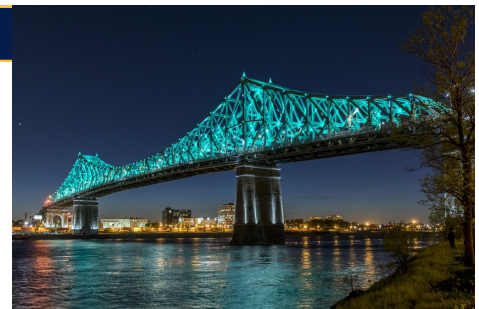
Chair Klaassen, Trustee Ofstie and Superintendent Romanchuk attended a graduation ceremony at the Colony School. It was a wonderful experience.



STUDENT EXCURSION REQUEST

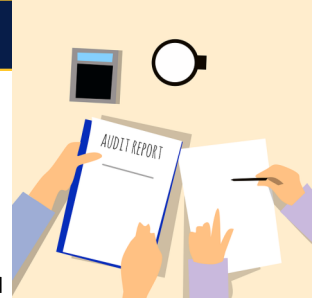


The Board gave approval in principle to the joint student excursion request from École Champs Vallée School and École Bellevue School. The excursion is to Montreal, Quebec City, and Ottawa, from June 23 to 29, 2020 for 39 Grade 6 students with two teacher supervisors and numerous parent volunteers.



2018-2019 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Benji Waser, Partner MNP; Kali Morris, MNP, Laurel Kvarnberg, BGSD Director of Finance; and Chelsey Volkman, BGSD Finance Manager, attended the meeting to present the Audited Financial Statements.



Mr. Waser reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the Black Gold School Division for the period September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019. The Independent Auditors’ Report concludes that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Black Gold School Division as of August 31, 2019 and the results of its operations, remeasurement gains and losses and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. In the Statement of Operations, the operating revenues totaled \$136,115,851 and expenses totaled \$134,948,952 with an operating surplus of \$1,166,899.

Mr. Waser reviewed the Management Letter and the Audit Findings Report for the year ending August 31, 2019. The auditors have satisfactorily completed their audit and are prepared to sign the Auditors’ Report after the Board of Trustees’ review and approval of the financial statements.

On behalf of the MNP audit team, Mr. Waser commended Laurel Kvarnberg and the BGSD Finance team, and expressed MNP’s appreciation for the cooperation and assistance they received during the course of this year’s audit.

An Independence Letter was submitted to the Board confirming that MNP is independent of Black Gold School Division.

Trustees thanked the auditors, and finance staff for a great job and professional work.

Superintendent Romanchuk expressed appreciation and congratulations on exceptional work to Associate Superintendent Andres, Laurel Kvarnberg, Chelsey Volkman, the Finance Department team, MNP, and to the Principals and staff.

Associate Superintendent Andres expressed appreciation to MNP for their professionalism, and their knowledge of school board finances; and a huge thanks to Laurel Kvarnberg, and Chelsey Volkman, Darren Gillett and the Finance Department.

The Board accepted the Black Gold School Division Audited Financial Statements and the Auditors’ Management Letter for the year ending August 31, 2019 for submission to Alberta Education, and acknowledges receipt of the Audit Findings Report and the Letter of Auditors’ Independence for the year ended August 31, 2019.

2019-2020 BUDGET UPDATE

Superintendent Romanchuk stated that there have been many discussions on the 2019-2020 budget. The Board would like to ensure that there is minimal impact on our students. Despite the shortfall in funding for this year’s budget, planning for next year has already begun. The Board does not want cuts to front line teachers and support staff at BGSD.



The Board is committed to keeping front line teachers and support staff in front of students for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year, and BGSD will not increase school or transportation fees mid-year.

CUSTODIAN RATIFICATION

The Board ratified the Memorandum of Agreement with Teamsters Local #987, the Custodial Department. The agreement includes:



- ◆ \$75.00 footwear allowance per year
- ◆ Trial period of transfers or promotions change from 90 calendar days to 45 calendar days
- ◆ Combined Health Spending Account and Wellness Spending Account, amount to remain at \$500 per year
- ◆ Introduce seniority rights to displace less senior employees (layoffs and hourly reductions)
- ◆ One year agreement with 0 percent wage increase

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

The Board approved the use of the following Locally Developed Courses:



- ◆ LDC2403 – Myth-Busting Science 25-3
 - Authorized from September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2023
- ◆ LDC1017 – Big History 15-5
 - Authorized from September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2023

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Board agreed to post the Land Acknowledgement Statement to be visible in the Board Room, and to share it at Board posted events.

Black Gold School Division would like to acknowledge that we are located within the boundaries of Treaty 6. This land is the ancestral and traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples of this area, including the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Dene, Nakota Sioux and Métis. We would also like to acknowledge the traditional knowledge holders and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us.

WEST END SCHOOL PROGRAMMING REVIEW

Superintendent Romanchuk shared information regarding the West End School Programming Review that was presented at the Board Planning Session.

Administration will periodically conduct a review of all of our schools. A review of schools is based upon:

- ◆ Capital plan consultation 2018
- ◆ Variable results on standardized testing (PATs and Diploma Exams)
- ◆ Many initiatives to provide equity of programming
- ◆ Equity of opportunities
- ◆ Sustainability of programming
- ◆ Availability of supports for families
- ◆ Transition rates



Information provided included enrolments for now and future, utilization rates, class sizes, five-year deferred maintenance costs, human resources added, cost per student, provincial achievement test results, safe and caring schools. Administration will publish these findings on the website. Administration will send out information to parents in the west end to provide information on the review, and to provide feedback.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Board gave approval to the following revised policies:

- Policy 2 – Role of the Board
- Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee
- Policy 10 – Policy Making
- Policy 15 – School Closure



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ADVOCACY

Chair Klaassen stated that the Community Engagement/Advocacy meetings have focused on communication regarding the budget. A draft letter will be sent to local MLAs and the Minister of Education that will outline information as to how the October budget affected Black Gold operations.

Chair Klaassen stated that a letter will be distributed to parents, and another to staff indicating that Black Gold School Division will not be laying off any front line workers this year, and will not be increasing fees to parents mid-year. The budget shortfall will be made up from Board reserves instead.



ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW UPDATE

Superintendent Romanchuk forwarded information to the Board from the contracted consultant on the Electoral Boundary Review. At the Board Planning Session, Trustees asked for information regarding the total area that a typical trustee would be responsible for representing.

A chart that outlined the areas of trustees from Divisions with similar populations was displayed.

Comparable Public School Divisions (6,000 to 20,000 students)	2018/2019 Enrolment	Trustees	Students /Trustee	Counties	Total Area	
					Sq Km	Sq Mi
Battle River Regional Division	6,082.00	8	760	Beaver, Camrose, Flagstaff	10,707	4,134
Golden Hills School Division	7,164.00	6	1,194	Wheatland, Knee Hill	7,927	3,061
Chinook's Edge School Division	11,041.00	9	1,227	Red Deer, Mountain View	7,743	2,990
Elk Island Public Schools	17,250.00	9	1,917	Lamont, Minburn, Strathcona	6,481	2,502
Wolf Creek School Division	7,701.00	6	1,284	Ponoka, Lacombe	5,579	2,154
Foothills School Division	8,003.00	6	1,334	Foothills	3,636	1,404
Black Gold Regional Division	11,825.00	7	1,689	Leduc	2,600	1,004
Parkland School Division	11,276.00	7	1,611	Parkland	2,390	923

BOARD PLANNING SESSION

Administration and Trustees attended the Annual Fall Board Planning Session. Chair Klaassen stated the Trustees appreciated the dedicated time to really dig into bigger topics. A considerable amount of time was spent on the Financial Overview. Thank you to all Managers and Principals, as the year-in-review was impressive. The Board is grateful, impressed and proud of how the Division is facing our current and future challenges with creativity and resiliency.



ASCA ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Chair Klaassen reported on the Alberta School Councils Association (ASCA) online engagement which occurred on November 23rd. This Zoom Call was an opportunity for school councils and parents to participate in discussions and polls with the ASCA Board of Directors. The Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange, also joined a portion of the Zoom Call. Some of the topics discussed were vaping, budget concerns, choice in education, curriculum, seclusion rooms and diploma exam weighting.

ASCA expressed strong support for their local trustees, and encouraged parents and school councils to engage and build relationships with their trustees. ASCA and ASBA are further developing ways to work together and have consistent messaging.



REMEMBRANCE DAY



Trustee Steed commented that many trustees attended Remembrance Day ceremonies. Thank you to all Board members, students and staff who participated and laid wreaths.

ATA INDUCTION



Trustee Martinson reported on the ATA Induction evening. Chairman Martinson stated it was an honour to attend with new teachers being inducted.

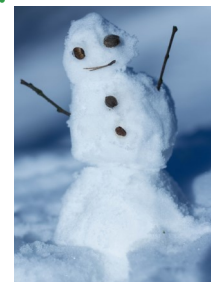
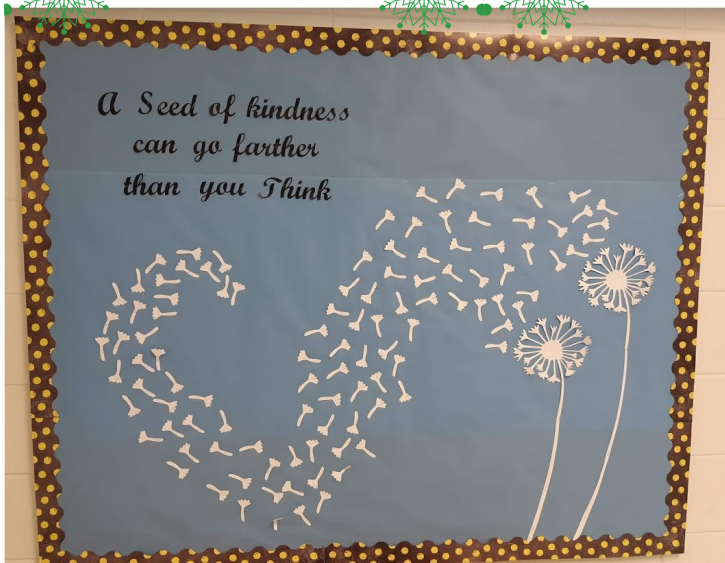
SCHOOL VISITS HIGHLIGHTS

Trustees and Superintendent Romanchuk attended school visits on October 10th to the following schools: New Sarepta Elementary, New Sarepta Community High and East Elementary.



Trustees and Associate Superintendent Dargis attended school visits on October 24th to the following schools: New Humble Centre, Calmar Secondary and Calmar Elementary.

Trustee Eilander stated that the schools enjoyed having the Trustees visit.



Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

He was picking his nose.



*Wall mural created by Suzanne Randell
Education Assistant, New Sarepta Elementary School
to support NSES Character Education Program*