



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

March 4, 2020



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

École Beau Meadow School

École Beau Meadow School hosted a Parent Wellness Night on February 21st. Parents enjoyed an evening filled with fun activities designed to relax and recharge them for the important job of parenting. Sessions included yoga, cardio workouts, craft projects, and cooperative games. Community partners, such as the team of Success and Wellness Coaches, School Resource Officers and local businesses all took part in making the evening a great success!



École Leduc Junior High School

The École Leduc Junior High School Leadership 9 Program, Student Wellness Action Team (SWAT), takes great pride in mentoring elementary school students around our community. Their student leadership team has been working with two schools, Linsford Park School and École Corinthia Park School, for the purpose of building community as they develop positive relationships through mentoring. This interaction has benefitted the students as they love connecting and mentoring the younger students. As well, the younger students recognize the leadership students as they head into the schools. Everyone's favourite part is recess time where both the elementary and junior high students are able to connect with their buddies and enjoy the positive play.

Robina Baker Elementary School

Robina Baker Elementary School recently hosted two fantastic Family Wellness events in partnership with their MHCB team. In December, they hosted a family gingerbread house making night and just under 200 people attended. At the end of January, they hosted a Passport to Family Wellness evening and despite the weather, 106 people attended. So much learning, so many happy faces! It was wonderful to provide support to a few students who had some "tough moments" and their parents who were open to suggestions for help. The stations were a huge success and many compliments were received.

Special thanks to Cherie Corcoran and her team for coordinating with the school to make this event happen! A special shout out to Liz Ward for all the extras she did to get the Regulation Hallway up and running to now build on. The many hands working together made the set up go smoothly and all the laughter made this a memorable event for staff, students and the community. RBES is very fortunate to work with such an amazing team!



NEW HUMBLE CENTRE SCHOOL



Two delegations made presentations to the Board regarding New Humble Centre School (NHCS). Mr. Kuhn asked questions regarding the West End Review document on the BGSD website. Administration will follow-up with Mr. Kuhn to provide clarification.

The New Humble Community Group provided a slide presentation that outlined plans to reduce costs and provide alternative programs that concentrate on sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.

On behalf of the Working Committee, Associate Superintendent Dargis presented the draft New Humble Centre School Viability Report. He expressed thanks to the Working Committee, Administration and the Advisory Group (which had representation from the County, school, School Council members from NHCS and Calmar Elementary School), for the many hours preparing the report. Due to the announcement of the new budget, there have been some changes made to the report since it was last in Committee. This report is not a recommendation but is to provide data. The report will be posted on the BGSD website on March 5, 2020, and will be available for the public meeting on March 11th.

A recommendation report will then be presented to the Board on April 8, 2020. The deadline for community members to submit reports will be April 1, 2020 so that the Working Committee has time to review and complete their recommendation report. Qualitative and quantitative data will be gathered and presented to the Board on April 8, 2020.

NAX PROGRAM



Principals Darren Caldwell and Brian Scott, along with Jason Stewart, President of Northern Alberta Extreme (NAX) attended the meeting to provide information on the NAX Program at Riverview Middle School (RMS) and John Maland High School (JMHS).

Jason Stewart provided some background information on the NAX program. In 2016, he had approached the schools in Devon with the hockey program that had been working in Edmonton. In 2016, there were 60 students, two male teams and one female team. The program has now grown to 100 students. Academically, the students are doing very well. Athletically, the program is providing opportunities for students to excel in their hockey career. As there are more students from the Town of Devon potentially enrolling in the program, they need to address the scheduling of classes for the program.

Brian Scott stated that there are positive and challenging aspects of the NAX program. Currently at RMS there is one team, with the possibility of two teams for the next year. The program provides a diversity of new faces, and positivity of the students being role models. Some staff may travel with the team next year. The school is proud of the accomplishments of the students moving up into the higher hockey leagues. To meet their scheduling needs, the school may schedule students to start their school day at a later time.

Darren Caldwell stated that the increased enrolment of students helps the school by adding teachers, new programs, and flexibility in timetabling. The NAX students are strong in academics, and highly motivated. The school is looking at adding an extra block at the end of the day open to all students. Overall, for the last four years, it has been an awesome program.

Superintendent Romanchuk stated that Jason Stewart is also a teacher, and his huge commitment to the students' academics has been extremely supportive. The schools do not get funding from the program, however, NAX has donated fitness equipment for all students to utilize.

LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS



Jennifer Kosiorek, eLibrarian for BGSD, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the Black Gold Library Learning Commons. Ms. Kosiorek provides support to all of our librarians. She provided a background of the Library Learning Commons Policy introduced by the Alberta Government in 2014. She also commented on some of the challenges that our librarians are facing in the schools, and that they need time to complete their jobs properly. Ms. Kosiorek also gave recommendations on what can be done for the future. Chair Klaassen and Superintendent Romanchuk thanked Ms. Kosiorek for sharing her expertise.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Board gave approval to the following policies:

- Policy 5: Role of the Board Chair
- Policy 6: Role of the Vice-Chair
- Policy 13: Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters
- Policy 14: Hearings on Teachers Transfers



STUDENT EXCURSIONS

The Board cancelled the New Sarepta Community High School international student excursion to Europe during spring break citing the health risks for students, staff and families.



PANDEMIC PLAN UPDATE

Associate Superintendent Monty provided an update on the Pandemic Plan that will be an Administrative Procedure 166 Appendix for BGSD. He addressed preventative measures, talked about the Pre-Pandemic phase, and commented on the information received from Alberta Health Services. In the event this enters the Pandemic Phase, there are guidelines to follow. This information was shared with all Principals at their Administrators' Meeting and has been shared with students, staff and parents.



ACTIVE FOR LIFE PROGRAM

Associate Superintendent Dargis provided a copy of the Active for Life Program that was presented to the Board by École Bellevue School. This program is optional for Grades 5 and 6 students for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost of \$85.00/month for students. This program increases student opportunities to be active and helps them become more motivated individuals. Trustees discussed the pros and cons of the program.



The Board gave approval to charge a fee of \$85.00/month for the 2020-21 Pilot Program for the Active for Life Program at École Bellevue School.

ATA RATIFICATION



Associate Superintendent Monty stated the ATA Memorandum of Agreement includes:

- Wellness account combined with the Health Spending Account
- Personal Day No Sub Deduction to be carried over one year only
- Part-time teacher FTE adjustable to .15 FTE

The Board gave approval to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement for the Alberta Teachers Association Local #8 as summarized.

SUMMER SCHOOL FEES

Superintendent Romanchuk stated that for summer school there are some courses that have fees attached to them and some do not. The Board approved the recommendation to charge a \$25.00 non-refundable administrative fee to all summer school courses to cover the cost of processing student applications.



WARD REVIEW

Superintendent Romanchuk stated that the consultant will be providing new information on options for a new ward structure. The ward structure will be completed by the end of June.

COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COMMUNITIES



Superintendent Romanchuk thanked Carmen Pezderic, Communications Coordinator, staff at West Haven Public School and all of the people involved in the meeting of the Council of School Communities. The process for the meeting went very well, and the Board and Senior Administration look forward to reviewing the comments.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION LUNCHEON

During Teachers' Convention, Chair Klaassen had the honour of attending the Partners in Education Luncheon, along with Superintendent Romanchuk and ATA Local Executives, at the Westin Hotel. Thank you to ATA Local #8 executive team for the invitation. There was good conversation, and the event finished off with a keynote from Candy Palmater which focused on the difference that teachers make through the power of connection.



SCHOOL VISITS

On February 13th, the Trustees visited Riverview Middle School, John Maland High School, and Robina Baker Elementary School in Devon. A highlight was witnessing the schools working together bringing the Grade 4s from RBES over to RMS for the pancake breakfast and their first tour of the school they will attend next year.

On February 19th, the Trustees and Administration held their Committee of the Whole meeting in Beaumont at the Beaumont Outreach, allowing for an opportunity to touch base with staff there, as well as also take in a tour of École Bellevue School. Two of our MLAs, Brad Rutherford and Mark Smith, joined the Board for lunch and the Bellevue Tour.



RBES School Board Visit



This artwork mural was created by Miss Danya Janzen's New Sarepta Elementary Grade 6 class. Education Assistant Angela Overacker was also instrumental in the creation of the project and the bulletin board.

The creativity and detail in each of the pictures is truly amazing! Thank you to the NSES Grade 6 students, Miss Janzen and Ms. Overacker for sharing the students' artistic talents. Congratulations on a job well done!

