



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 27, 2020



## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

### Distinguished Leadership Award

Black Gold School Division is pleased to announce that Katherine Kloschinsky has been selected as a recipient of the 2019-2020 Distinguished Leadership Award presented by the Council of School Leadership (CSL) of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

The CSL Distinguished Leadership Awards creates a learning community of outstanding principals and assistant principals throughout Alberta who can share professionally, interact collegially and act as mentors to new colleagues. It provides avenues for research and sharing of best practices. The cadre of Distinguished Alberta School Leaders are people who are looking to challenge the status quo, improve learning in their contexts, and be equipped for higher levels of leadership. These individuals are considered role models in a vibrant network of educational leaders with the confidence and capabilities to lead innovative change for 21st century learning. Congratulations Katherine!



### 2019-2020 Nutrition Grant



At the end of March, Alberta Education stated that full funding for the School Nutrition Program would continue for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. School authorities were asked to find innovative ways to provide meals to students and, if that was not feasible, to provide the remaining nutrition funds to willing and able not-for-profit organizations that support vulnerable families.

Since the cancellation of classes in mid-March, Black Gold schools have used their Nutrition Program budgets to purchase approximately \$25,900 in gift cards to grocery stores to send to families in their school communities who are in need. Some schools have chosen to cover the cost of online grocery orders at their local grocery stores or provide food baskets to these families. A number of schools have opted to donate all or a portion of their remaining Nutrition Program budgets to the Leduc & District Food Bank to support the work they are doing to support families in need in our communities, including a snack kit delivery program for kids.

Black Gold School Division will be donating \$54,250 of our \$166,000 Nutrition Grant to the Leduc & District Food Bank.

### Devon IGA

Thank you to Tyler Cranshaw from Devon IGA who recently donated gift cards to Robina Baker Elementary School and Riverview Middle School. Each school received \$718 worth of gift cards to distribute to families in need.

The schools donated the gift cards to Devon families and/or supplemented the school's weekly nutrition grocery deliveries with these gift cards.

We certainly appreciate this kind generosity from Devon IGA!



### A Bag of Hope



Cherie Corcoran, Project Manager for the Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCBC) Project announced that during the March Division counselor/admin zoom session, information regarding 'A Bag of Hope' was relayed to all in attendance. Students and families were chosen by administrators, counselors and teachers. They contacted families directly so that families had the option to choose to receive the bag of hope. Once that was completed, arrangements were made for delivery to homes or pickup in the respective school parking lot. Each member of the family (toddler to grade 12) received a bag specifically containing items to best suit their age.

Students who attend weekly MHCBC virtual sessions/lessons also received a bag so that each activity could be discussed during the mental health lesson. All of the remaining bags will go to the Leduc & Area Food Bank so that when hampers are picked up they will also receive a bag of hope for their family to encourage independent play and family activities.

## PUF CHANGES & UPDATE

Niki Gill, ECS Coordinator provided information on the changes to the Program Unit Funding (PUF) after the new budget framework was announced by the Alberta Government. Ms. Gill explained the new structure of the PUF program, and highlighted the number of programs offered in the fall. Due to the budget costs, the program had to develop the following priorities and mandate:



- Ensure access for all children who qualify for early intervention (funded Pre-K) as per the Special Education Coding criteria
- Maintain small class size
- Maintain 3-1 adult child ratio
- Maintain access to SLP (Speech-Language Pathologists), OT (Occupational Therapists), PT (Physiotherapists), Psychologists for school staff and families to support programming
- Keep children as close to their home community as possible

Ms. Gill provided a schedule of where the programs will be held, and the number of hours accessible. Information is also on the BGSD website. BGSD is using social media to announce the programs that will be available.

## ENHANCED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Terri Reid, Learning Services Coordinator, and Cindy McRae, ATA Local Treasurer, attended the meeting via Zoom to provide information on the Enhanced Professional Development Program (EPDP) pilot.

Ms. Reid and Ms. McRae stated that the joint ATA/Black Gold Committee for the EPDP pilot would like to extend this program for the 2020-2021 school year. Based on the feedback from members, some modifications to the original program have been incorporated to make it more equitable for all professional staff. Some changes include:

- Have sub costs included in the total cost that the teacher can apply for
- Maximum amount available per teacher per year is \$750

As this is a Collective Agreement item, approval is required from the ATA Local and the BGSD Board of Trustees. The EPDP with the amendments was approved by the ATA Local at their last meeting. Both the ATA and Black Gold would like the enhanced program to continue.

Trustees are supportive of professional development for teachers. The Board approved the updated Enhanced Professional Development Program pilot as amended by the Joint Committee for the 2020-2021 school year.

## PARENT SURVEY

Terri Reid, Learning Services Coordinator, provided information on the Parent survey that was sent to all parents and shared on social media. As of today, there are 4,100 responses to the survey. Some of the questions asked on the survey were:

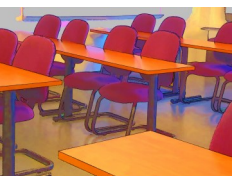
- What was most useful to them in supporting the students to learn at home?
- What are some of the things that your child is doing well during remote learning?
- What are some of the things that your child is struggling with during remote learning?
- What concerns do you have for your child regarding transitioning for next year?
- Captured parents' thoughts about September re-entry



The feedback is very interesting and heartwarming to see how the parents feel their students are doing. This is an opportunity to embrace how the students are learning in a different way. Once the survey closes on June 3, 2020, the analysis will begin and the information brought back to the Board. A staff survey will also be distributed.

Trustees and Administration thanked Terri Reid for all her work in setting up the survey. Trustees look forward to receiving the final data information.

## WEST END REVIEW UPDATE



Superintendent Romanchuk asked to continue to pause the review. At this point, quantitative parts of the review can be done, but it is suggested to wait until it can be completed effectively. Trustees were in agreement with this decision.

## ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT - BUSINESS & FINANCE

The Board approved the appointment of Chelsey Volkman as the Associate Superintendent Business & Finance Elect of Black Gold School Division until she assumes the responsibilities as Associate Superintendent Business & Finance effective August 1, 2020.

### APPOINTMENT



## **WARD REVIEW OPTIONS**

Superintendent Romanchuk stated that in working with the consultant on the ward review options, a plan has been developed for the following four scenarios:

1. County wards – follows county ward system
2. Attendance boundaries – follows attendance area of high schools
3. Split city – cities split by wards
4. Modified current – generally follows the current ward boundaries



Trustees provided comments on the four scenarios. Superintendent Romanchuk will take the Board's top two suggestions to the public for consultation. Trustees expressed thanks to Superintendent Romanchuk and the consultant for all the research work that was presented.

## **NHCS BUILDING/INVENTORY UPDATE & NHCS COMMUNITY GROUP REQUEST**



Superintendent Romanchuk provided an update on New Humble Centre School (NHCS), and stated the Education Manager at Alberta Education requires a copy of the land title for NHCS. The school has done an inventory on all the supplies and furniture. Some supplies will be sent to Calmar Elementary School (CES), after which other schools will have the opportunity to choose items according to Administrative Procedure 518 - Disposal of Division Property. The library is being inventoried, and some resources will be sent to CES, and then items remaining will be sent to other schools who need resources. All staff have been assigned other positions. The Facilities Department will be moving larger items.

A request has come by email from the NHCS Community Group asking that BGSD adjust the closure date to June 30, 2021, so that they may complete an application for a charter school. The request has suggested the school be run normally for one more year.

Trustee Ofstie stated that staffing has already been re-assigned and an inventory of all items has occurred. Trustee O'Gorman commented that the request only came in this week, and it would be difficult to undo all the changes that have taken place.

Superintendent Romanchuk suggested that the Board explore other options to present to the NHCS parents group. BGSD has not yet received a reply from Alberta Education.

Trustees have requested to see more information on what the costs would be to hold onto NHCS, and the charter school process timeline. Superintendent Romanchuk will report back on this information.

## **2020-2021 BUDGET**

Associate Superintendent Andres presented the 2020-2021 budget. The budget highlights, plans and assumptions were presented along with significant business and financial risks. The budget is due May 31, 2020, and BGSD will know if the deficit has been approved by Alberta Education, and then planning may begin.



The Budgeted Statement of Operations was presented along with the corresponding financial schedules. The Board will have an opportunity to revise the budget in the Fall. The budget is projecting a deficit in Instruction of \$1,719,325, a deficit in Operations and Maintenance of \$60,704, a deficit in Transportation of \$59,392 and a surplus in System Administration of \$199,317.

Trustees expressed appreciation and thanks to Associate Superintendent Andres and the Finance Department for the preparation of the budget.

The Board approved the Budget Report to be submitted to Alberta Education for the year ending August 31, 2021 with the proposed budget totaling \$136,595,119 in revenue, and \$138,235,223 in expenses for the 2020-2021 school year, for a projected deficit of \$1,640,104 for Black Gold School Division.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Associate Superintendent Monty announced that on May 25th, BGSD started the relaunch of bringing back staff at Division Office. Staff are returning back on staggered days at two days per week to start, and then three days. The front entrance door of the County Building will open by June 8th. Some of the safety protocols initiated are:

- Engineering controls
- Limiting people in rooms
- Safety concerns – handwashing
- Number of people allowed in elevators



## **CAPS MODULAR CONTRACTOR**

Associate Superintendent Andres presented the tender results for the General Contractor for the modular project at Caledonia Park School. The consultants and Administration recommended the contract be awarded to Prologic Construction Ltd.

The Board accepted the recommendation from Administration to enter into a CCDC2 contract with Prologic Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$1,730,000.00 as the General Contractor for the modular project at Caledonia Park School.

**LAST DAY OF CLASSES - 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR**

Superintendent Romanchuk announced that the Administration Association is requesting to change the last day of classes for students to June 19th. Teacher workdays will be scheduled from June 22nd to 30th. The rationale for this request is as follows:

- Grade and subject-specific planning meetings for teaching staff to share resources in preparation for the fall school re-entry.
- Time for a scheduled return of all instructional and library resources and to be documented for inventory.
- Time to hold transition meetings for students and to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year.

**June**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12
14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	1	2	3

The Board modified the [2019-2020 school calendar](#) to reflect the last day of classes for students to be June 19, 2020.

**STUDENT FEES**

Associate Superintendent Andres presented the proposed School and Transportation Fees Schedule for 2020-2021. The approved fees will be posted on the individual school websites.

Division Technology Fees

- Grades 1-3 – payment of \$10.00
- Grades 4-12 – payment of \$20.00

Division Tuition Fees

(Day Extension Fees – Students 20 yrs+):

- 1 credit course – payment of \$125.00
- 3 credit course – payment of \$375.00
- 5 credit course – payment of \$625.00

Pre-K Program – Non funded children – Not Offered

Foreign Student or Out of Province – remain at \$12,000.00



Transportation Fees

Administrative Transportation Fee for ALL students being transported

(students eligible for funding & students ineligible for funding) – payment of \$25.00

- Maximum of \$75 per family

Transportation Fee for Student Ineligible for Funding – payment of \$330.00

- Maximum of \$785 per family

Transportation Fee for School/Program of Choice – payment of \$330.00

- Maximum of \$785 per family

Student Bus Pass Replacement Fee – payment of \$11.00

School-Based Enhanced Course Fees

Kindergarten Enhanced Program Fee - \$100/year

The Board approved the recommendation from Administration for the proposed 2020-2021 Student Fees for the year ended August 31, 2021 as summarized.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

The Board gave approval to the following policies:

1. Policy 1 - Division Foundational Statements
2. Policy 1 Appendix - Logo and Identity
3. Policy 9 - Board Representatives
4. Policy 17 - Student Transportation Services
5. Policy 18 - Alternative Programs
6. Policy 19 Appendix - Student Code of Conduct - to become an Administrative Procedure.



**BOARD SPRING OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW/ PLANNING SUMMARY**

Superintendent Romanchuk stated that following the Board Planning Sessions, Administration has reviewed some of the items in regards to strategic planning, social emotional learning, and learning resource planning and professional development.



Associate Superintendent Dargis commented that in the fall, teachers will have access to materials online.

## LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

Associate Superintendent Dargis reported that we require Board approval for the extension to use the listed Locally Developed Courses:

Band 15-3, 15-5, 25-3, 25-5, 35-3, 35-5	Start Date: March 11, 2019	End Date: August 31, 2021
Class V Driver Training 35-3	Start Date: December 18, 2017	End Date: August 31, 2021
Forensic Studies 25-3, 35-3	Start Date: December 17, 2018	End Date: August 31, 2021
Improvisational Theatre 15-3, 15-5, 25-5, 35-5	Start Date: September 1, 2016	End Date: August 31, 2021
Instrumental Jazz 15-3, 15-5, 25-3, 25-5, 35-3, 35-5	Start Date: September 1, 2016	End Date: August 31, 2021
Introduction to Scaffolding 15-3	Start Date: April 11, 2018	End Date: August 31, 2021
Military Studies 15-3	Start Date: September 1, 2016	End Date: August 31, 2021
Musical Theatre 15-3, 15-5, 25-5, 35-5	Start Date: September 1, 2015	End Date: August 31, 2021
Paleontology 15-3	Start Date: March 9, 2018	End Date: August 31, 2021
Reading 15-3, 15-5, 25-3, 25-5	Start Date: September 1, 2016	End Date: August 31, 2021
SciTech 15-3	Start Date: September 1, 2016	End Date: August 31, 2021
Video 15-5, 25-5, 35-5	Start Date: February 1, 2016	End Date: August 31, 2021

And the addition of the following courses:

Creative Writing & Publishing (2019) 15-3, 25-3, 35-3	Start Date: September 1, 2020	End Date: August 31, 2023
Broadcast Video 15-5, 25-5, 35-5 (Developed)	Start Date: September 1, 2020	End Date: August 31, 2023

The Board approved the use of the Locally Developed Courses listed as summarized.

### *Life is Like Coffee*

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers got together to visit their old college professor. Conversation soon turned to complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups: porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking or expensive or exquisite. He told his guests to help themselves to the coffee.

After everyone had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: if you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups have been taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases, it's just more expensive and in some cases, even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup. But you consciously went for the best cups, and then you began eyeing each other's cups. Now consider this. . .

Life is the Coffee. The jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain LIFE. And the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes . . .  
By concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee. Savor the coffee, not the cup.

**The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything!**

Live simply. Speak kindly. Care deeply. Love generously.

**The richest person is not the one who has the most but the one who needs the least.**



(Author Unknown)