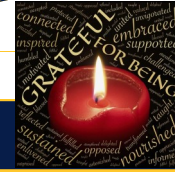




BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

October 28, 2020



BOARD UPDATE

Chair Klaassen welcomed everyone to the October meeting with these comments. We continue to extend gratitude for the patience, support, and encouragement from our communities as we navigate schooling during a pandemic. After two months of school, Black Gold has had five positive cases of COVID. The cases have been at different locations therefore none have been identified as outbreaks, and there have been zero cases due to in-school transmission. Our thoughts are with those families who have had COVID in their homes; may they experience minimal symptoms and recover swiftly. Let us all do our part to minimize transmission.

Despite being on the edge of the Alberta hotspot, what we've been hearing from many staff is that they are feeling as though a weight has been lifted. Perhaps not so much that there is less stress - we know many staff are very tired, however, the type of stress is at least more familiar than unfamiliar. Students as well, are settling into their routines.

Some significant dates acknowledged this month:

October 2 - Custodian Appreciation Day

October 5 - World Teacher Day



All BGSD staff - custodians and teachers are going above and beyond; there are no words to truly express our appreciation - Thank you for all you do!

October 10 - World Mental Health Day - with 1:5 experiencing mental health challenges in any given year, it is important now more than ever to take care of our mental health and be patient and supportive of one another.

October 31 - Halloween - Please be safe!

COVID UPDATE

Associate Superintendent Monty provided a COVID update. BGSD continues to update the 2020-2021 School Re-entry Plan as new direction is provided by AHS and Alberta Education. BGSD is also continuing with the postponement of all student excursions and extracurricular activities. Administration recently had the opportunity to participate in a conference call with Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer.



FEDERAL GRANT UPDATE

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk requested that all Principals provide a list of items they purchased to ensure the safety of their students prior to opening and what supplies they require to maintain those standards. Funds were allocated from the Federal Grant to help with those costs. BGSD has recently received another shipment of sanitizer and bleach, and are awaiting the PPE that was announced by the provincial government.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2020 Orange Shirt day held September 30th. Schools were asked to share pictures of what was happening on Orange Shirt Day.

Thank you to Communications Advisor Deven Kumar for creating the presentation.





ENROLMENTS

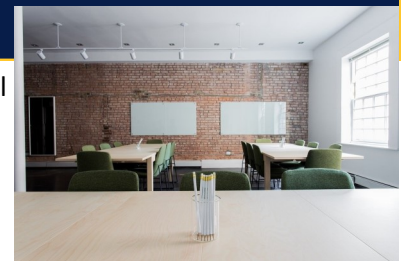
Associate Superintendent Volkman provided an enrolment summary for BGSD as of September 30, 2020. The summary shows the difference in enrolment from last year to this year. An overall average increase of enrolment for the Division is 0.16%.

| | Enrolment Total | Enrolment Total | Change in | Percentage |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------|
| | 2020 | 2019 | Enrolment | Change |
| New Sarepta | 481 | 497 | -16 | -3.22% |
| City of Beaumont | 4,151 | 4,064 | 87 | 2.14% |
| City of Leduc | 5,003 | 5,074 | -17 | -1.40% |
| Town of Devon | 940 | 973 | -33 | -3.39% |
| West End Schools | 1,192 | 1,252 | -60 | -4.79% |
| Alternative Education | 482 | 369 | 113 | 30.62% |
| Total Enrolment | 12,249 | 12,229 | 20 | 0.16% |

2021-2022 MODULAR REQUESTS

The Board gave approval to the modular classroom requests for the 2021-2022 school year to be submitted to Alberta Education. The requests are the following:

- Two new modulars @ Caledonia Park School (based on enrolment growth)
- One new modular @ École Leduc Junior High School (based on enrolment growth)
- Four new modulars @ École Beau Meadow School (life-cycle)



CALENDAR UPDATE



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk stated that they have distributed a survey for the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar, and are asking for feedback from Schools (staff) and

School Councils. The survey outlines four questions looking at the calendar and balance, staggered entry, possibility of having a fall break, Christmas break – when to start the break, Spring break – when to have the break occur, continue the same time or change? The survey has also been distributed to Division Office staff for feedback. Administration will bring back the information in December.

POLICY 7 - APPENDIX BYLAW 1-2020 - THIRD READING

The Board gave third and final reading to Policy 7 – Appendix -Bylaw 1-2020 with the friendly amendment to include the wording of the following:



Ward 4 – Including the City of Beaumont and the attendance area of the New Sarepta Schools.

NEW HUMBLE RINK LEASE

The Board directed Administration to pursue entering into a contract with the New Humble Community Group to maintain and use the skating rink at the New Humble Centre School.

2021-2022 CAPITAL MAINTENANCE & RENEWAL PROJECT PRIORITIES

Associate Superintendent Volkman provided a summary of the 2021-2022 Capital Maintenance and Renewal Project Priorities. In late September, Boards were asked to identify priority Capital Maintenance and Renewal projects for the upcoming budget year. BGSD submitted eleven projects for a total of \$3.73 million. Projects include exterior envelope replacement, roofing, upgrading windows, replacing generators, and foundation repairs.





TRANSPORTATION - BUS CONTRACTORS

Associate Superintendent Volkman received a request from the Bus Contractors’ Association to support the additional expenses they are incurring due to new requirements related to COVID. Administration recommended providing the following support totaling \$158,000 to Bus Contractors for the 2020-2021 school year in relation to increased costs incurred due to COVID-19 requirements:

- Cleaning supplies for sanitizing buses – total of \$28,900
- Additional time for drivers to clean the bus each day – total of \$103,500
- Additional time spent creating and updating seating plans – total of \$9,400
- Hold harmless rural contractors rates for routes where the weighted count significantly decreased due to the number of students accessing Distance Learning in their area – total of \$16,200



The Board approved the additional costs as presented to support the bus contractors for the 2020-2021 school year.

INSURANCE UPDATE

Laurel Kvarnberg, Director of Finance, provided an update on the new insurance plan from Alberta Risk Managed Insurance Consortium (ARMIC). The focus of ARMIC is managing risk with the goal of achieving price stability over the coming years. ARMIC is currently piloting OpticRisk Management Software, which will be implemented across the Consortium. Each school will have one person trained in using the software and there will be a Super User in Division Office.



Based on recommendations from Marsh, ARMIC’s insurance broker and the Risk Management & Claims Committee, the following motions were passed:

- Move that all ARMIC Boards follow the student travel guidelines of Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer.
- Move that all ARMIC Boards purchase the Blanket Student Travel insurance policy for all future trips.

Ms. Kvarnberg also stated that risk management is key for Black Gold and all ARMIC Boards moving forward. There will be continued communication from ARMIC regarding ‘best practices’ in risk management in all areas, and it is imperative that these recommendations are implemented moving forward.

STUDENT SERVICES

Dianne Butler, Director of Student Services provided information on how COVID has changed the programs of the Student Services

Department. Ms. Butler commented on how all our staff deserve medals in how they are managing the changes.



Cherie Corcoran, Mental Health Program Manager, spoke on the Mental Health Literacy program. The Mental Health Literacy Program also involves ‘Bell Let’s Talk’ Day, World Mental Health Day, and Mental Health Week. A PowerPoint presentation on the program was shown.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY (CEAC) UPDATE

Chair Klaassen provided a summary of the recent CEAC meeting. Trustees discussed the following advocacy items:

- Solar Advocacy for new high school in Leduc
- Program Unit Funding (PUF) Advocacy
- School Resource Officer (SRO) Support Request
- Hold Harmless Advocacy

WARBURG PLAYSCHOOL LEASE

Associate Superintendent Volkman announced that the Division has signed a lease agreement with the Warburg Playschool Society to operate a preschool class out of a classroom in Warburg School. The lease includes requirements for a minimum amount of liability insurance that must be carried by the Society and a requirement to adhere to Black Gold School Division’s school re-entry plan.