



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

June 23, 2021



## OPENING STATEMENT – BOARD CHAIR

“As Alberta is in Stage 2 of reopening, we are able to gather in greater numbers. Today, some of us are meeting in person, distanced, and some are joining in virtually. We’ll open the meeting with ‘O Canada’, today’s version in Cree.

Along with honouring the many accomplishments that have brought us to the end of the school year, today, we also celebrate diversity and inclusion, which are critical components of our healthy and vibrant school communities.



June is Pride Month, a time to celebrate the forward strides toward acceptance and equality. We acknowledge the hardships the LGBTQ2+ community has and still endures, and focus on awareness. Today, the Board and Senior Administration are wearing the colors of the rainbow to show our allyship and commitment to continue to reduce stigma through education.

June is also Indigenous History Month. While this is dedicated time to celebrate the history, rich cultures, languages and achievements of Indigenous Peoples, this year we had a difficult start to the month with the formal discovery of a mass burial site at the former Residential School in Kamloops, BC. We remember and mourn all the children who did not make it home, those found and those who remain unknown and unfound and we stand together with the families and individuals whose lives were forever changed. We know the legacy of the trauma inflicted by residential schools lives on. To recognize this and all other events triggered by hatred, bigotry or racism – a moment of silence please. Let us acknowledge and reflect on the profound impact they have had on our communities.



As referenced in Policy 19, the Black Gold School Division Board of Trustees acknowledges our responsibility to ensure welcoming, caring, respectful, and safe learning and working environments. We value diversity and are committed to fostering a sense of belonging by promoting equity of opportunity, dignity and respect. As organizational leaders, we recognize the need to lead with empathy and compassion. By acknowledging what has happened, and creating space to reflect and learn, we set the groundwork for eliminating racism. We are committed to education and clarity, and have dedicated resources to supporting teachers to better understand, model and instruct. Education teaches tolerance, awareness, respect, empathy and understanding.

There have been many inspirational examples from Black Gold schools this month acknowledging and celebrating Pride, Indigenous History Month, National Indigenous Peoples’ Day and more, fostering increased support and understanding. Thank you for your respectful discussions, creative and fun lessons, opportunities for reflection, Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) support and guidance. We’re looking forward to seeing some examples of these later on in the meeting.

We are also mere days away from the end of what has been quite a long and challenging school year. A final stretch ending in graduation for many! On behalf of the Board, our congratulations and best wishes to all of the graduates in Black Gold, from Kindergarten grads through to High School! We’re so proud of you!



As we venture forth into the summer sunshine:

*May the long time sun shine upon you, All love surround you - And the pure light within you guide your way on.”*

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk provided an update on the BGSD’s strategic planning. The three priorities being identified for Board use for the foreseeable future are success, wellness, and engagement and partnerships. Administration, the public, support staff, teachers and trustees were consulted for the 10 year strategic future of BGSD.

The Board accepted the strategic priorities as presented for BGSD.



## SUBSTITUTE RETURNING OFFICER

The Board approved the appointment of Camille Hendrickson, Administrative Assistant, as the substitute returning officer for BGSD for the upcoming election in October 2021.





## COVID & DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATES

Associate Superintendent Monty provided an update on COVID-19. None of BGSD's schools are on the School Alert Outbreak Map and currently there are no cases in our schools. Summer school will begin July 5, 2021 and at all hosting locations, COVID protocols will be continued for student and staff safety as per Alberta Education guidelines.

Associate Superintendent Dargis provided an update on Distance Learning. Declarations for the 2021 fall semester were open from March 31, 2021 until April 8, 2021. The declarations received indicate a significantly lower request for Distance Learning for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. French Immersion parents have been informed that BGSD will not be running French Immersion Distance Learning for the upcoming school year. A letter was sent to all French Immersion parents informing them of this decision on June 2, 2021.



On August 3, 2021 all parents/guardians will receive an email via SchoolMessenger to confirm the choice of learning for their children. If the parents/guardians wish to change their choice of learning, instructions on how to do so will be provided. The change request deadline is **August 13, 2021**.

## BGSD EDUCATION PLAN 2021-2024

Associate Superintendent Dargis presented the final draft of the BGSD Education Plan for 2021-2024. The document will be shared with our schools, the public and Alberta Education.

The Board approved the BGSD Education Plan for 2021-2024 as presented.



## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Board approved Policy 2 Appendix A – Board Annual Work Plan.

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk presented the Trustee Handbook developed by the Board Policy Committee. Trustees developed two documents: a pamphlet for the website and a Trustee Handbook to be shared with new trustees. This handbook explains the role of a trustee and is a great tool for the transition of and reference for new trustees. This document will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees.



The Board approved the developed Trustee Handbook for BGSD.

## ASBA ZONE 2/3 & EDWIN PARR BANQUET

Trustee Steed explained that the Edwin Parr Awards recognize exceptional first year teachers. The nominee for BGSD was Katie Myszkowski. The banquet was virtual this year allowing for greater involvement by family and friends. All nominees were recognized and supported for their work as first year teachers.

The keynote speaker was former BGSD Principal Chris Peacocke.



## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ART SHOWCASE



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk presented an update on the [High School Student Art Showcase](#). This is the first of what we hope will be an annual art showcase for BGSD. Submissions were acquired from the BGSD high schools, encompassing fine arts, industrial arts and CTS projects. The Showcase is currently on display on the fourth floor of Division Office. Trustees will select three pieces to be put on permanent display at Division Office. Artists will be featured on the website and on social media. There was exceptional talent on display and the participating artists were commended on their outstanding skill.

## SUMMER SCHOOL UPDATE

Associate Superintendent Dargis provided an update on Summer School. Summer School will run from July 5-29, 2021. All pandemic safety protocols will be maintained. Courses offered will be both in-person and online with over 1000 students participating this year (an increase over past years).



A Transitions Program is being offered to Grade 9 students looking to become familiar with how high school works with 45 students participating this summer. There will also be numeracy and literacy tutorials offered for elementary students.

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

'School News' was presented which included various activities at the following schools during May and June. It is posted on our BGSD website, Board Highlights— June.

- ◆ École Champs Vallee School
- ◆ École Leduc Junior High School
- ◆ Willow Park
- ◆ West Haven Public School
- ◆ École Leduc Estates School
- ◆ Distance Learning
- ◆ Warburg School
- ◆ École Corinthia Park School
- ◆ École Coloniale Estates School
- ◆ Thorsby Elementary School
- ◆ École Dansereau Meadows School
- ◆ John Maland High School
- ◆ Covenant Christian School
- ◆ Riverview Middle School
- ◆ East Elementary School
- ◆ Robina Baker Elementary School

