



April 15, 2026

Black Gold Trustee Newsletter

Thanks to families and students for sharing your experiences with inclusion

The Board of Trustees is thankful to parents / guardians and to students for sharing your perspectives about what inclusion looks like in Black Gold classrooms. Your day-to-day, lived experiences matter to us. Your insights will help us as we work to ensure our students have the support they need to be successful at school.



About the engagement:

- Black Gold talked with 43 Gr. 7-12 students, individually
- 110 parents / guardians registered to attend 3 sessions. All parents of students with individualized student plans (ISPs) were invited.
- Engagement sessions for parents / guardians occurred in February: Calmar, Leduc, Beaumont

- Parents / guardians & students highlighted what is working well, and where they felt we could strengthen our practice. They emphasized the value of:
 - Strong, trusting relationships
 - Collaborative development of ISPs and clear communication
 - Transitions between grades and schools
 - Quiet, flexible learning spaces, and teaching practice that support learning
 - Access to resources and supports



Next steps for Black Gold School Division include discussions with school based administrators which occurred early in March, examining how we might strengthen our approach to ISP, and clarifying the ISP journey for families.

At the Board level, we will use this feedback as we consider Policy 19 - Safe, Caring, Respectful and Welcoming Environments. Also, we will continue to advocate to the province for adequate funding to support inclusion, and for provincial ministries to work together so that students have the resources they need. Black Gold remains committed to continued listening, learning and strengthening how we support students and *inspire success* across the division. To read a fuller account of the feedback, please visit our website, [here](#).

COMING SOON!

Board of Trustees launches new Award



The Black Gold Board of Trustees is launching a new “Spirit of Service” (SOS) award. Trustees appreciate the ongoing volunteer contributions of parents and guardians in Black Gold’s schools, and will employ the new award as one way of expressing thanks. Truly, parents and guardians often are ‘lifesavers’ with the contributions they make.

The award will go to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to their school community and has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting student success across the division.

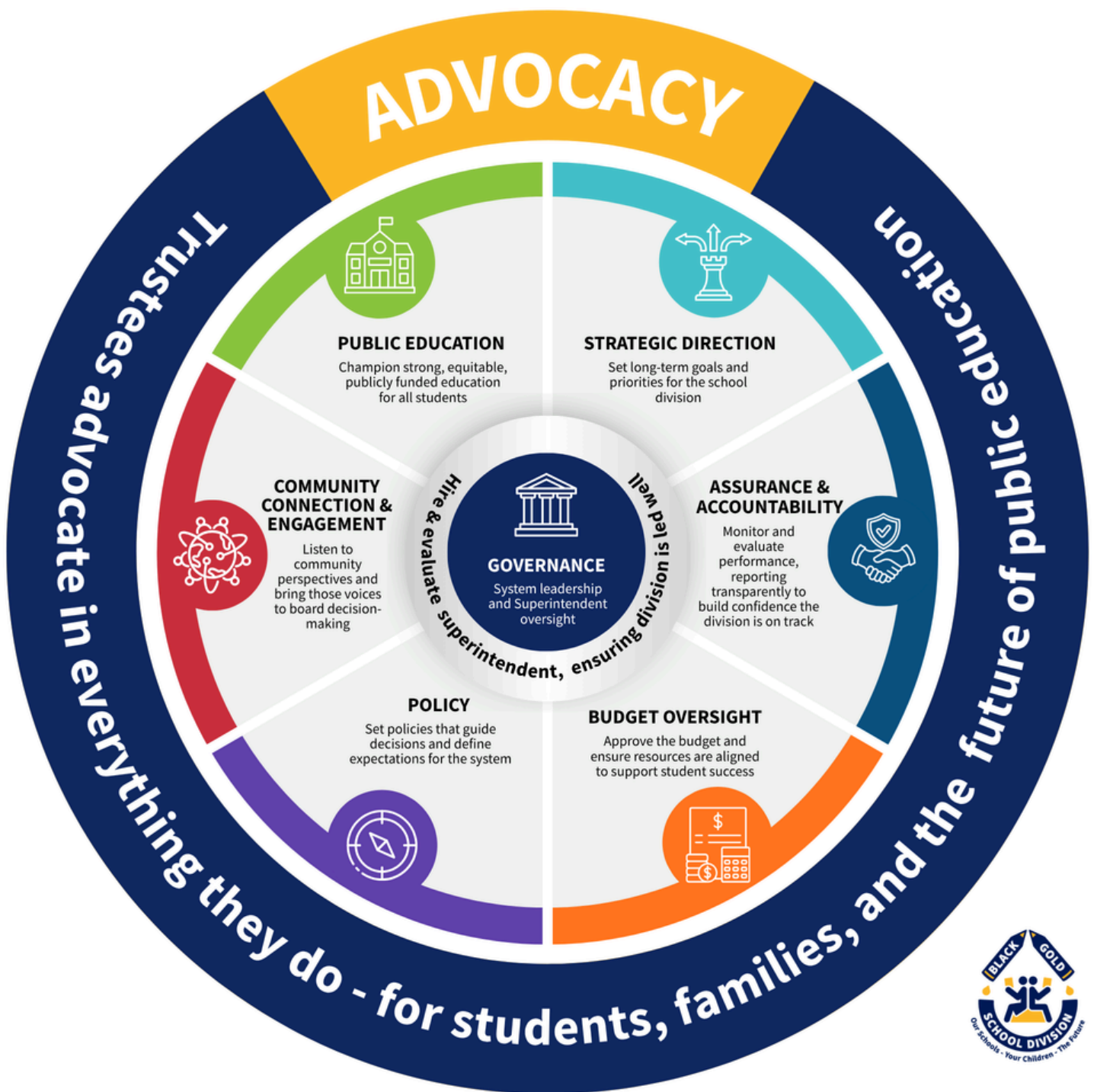
“The award will celebrate the dedication, leadership, and service that parents and guardians bring to strengthening school communities,” says Devonna Klaassen, BGSD Board Chair. Nomination details and deadlines will be announced in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

What do trustees do?

The Board of Trustees plays a critical role in ensuring community values and priorities are reflected in the public schools that serve our children.

A key part of the Board's work is advocacy. Also, the Board oversees a budget of \$170 million, sets direction for the school division through planning and policies, and ensures our division is *inspiring success* for students. Connecting and engaging with community members is essential in ensuring we are successful in our role.

The graphic below highlights the role we play in education and in our community.



Working together

One of the questions we sometimes receive is about what role trustees play in resolving concerns that can arise at the school level.

Black Gold School Division values the partnership it has with families, and is committed to working together to resolve issues. The Board of Trustees respects and supports the process described in this graphic.



For a more detailed description of this process, please visit our website, [here](#).

Introducing our new trustees

We are happy to welcome four new trustees to the Black Gold School Board. These individuals were elected in the October 2025 election, and join returning trustees:

- Devonna Klaassen - Chair (Devon & Calmar)
- Angie Charpentier - Vice Chair (Leduc)
- Barb Martinson (Leduc)

Natasha Warnock (Warburg & Thorsby)

Natasha is a proud Thorsby area resident and a retired Black Gold School Division Education Assistant. Natasha has served on many committees and boards, both in her children's schools and in the Division. Natasha is a strong advocate for public education.



Werner Fisher (Leduc)

Werner is a long time City of Leduc resident and retired Black Gold School Division Principal. Werner is a strong advocate for inclusive public education and ensuring the success of every student.

Christie Bergman (Beaumont & New Sarepta)

Christie is a successful City of Beaumont-based, small-business owner and realtor who also serves on a provincial health board. Christie is a strong voice and advocate for public education believing that kids come first and families belong at the heart of every decision.



Rachel Gregor-Stang (Beaumont & New Sarepta)

Rachel is a born and raised resident of Leduc County. She is a former Black Gold School Division Education Assistant, and has served on many committees and boards in the community. Rachel is committed to supporting educators, engaging families and helping to inspire success for all students.

Thanks for reading!

Questions? Trustee email addresses are available on our website, [here](#).

The Board's newsletters are kept on the Black Gold website, [here](#).