



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

August 24, 2020

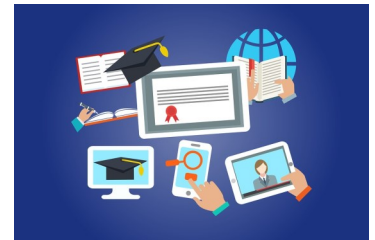


SUMMER UPDATE

Associate Superintendent Monty addressed staffing information, and the Human Resources (HR) Department are working with Principals to deploy teachers from schools to staff the Distance Learning Program that must be created to meet the needs of students whose parents have chosen this option.

Associate Superintendent Norm Dargis spoke on the Learning Services (LS) Department:

- The LS Department is continuing to update the BGSD School Re-Entry Plan as new information is received from the Ministry and Chief Medical Officer (CMO).
- LS worked with our teachers and other Divisions to create resources for teachers who will need to teach remotely.
- LS hired three Assistant Principals who will manage the Distance Learning Program. The Administrative team associated with the Distance Learning Program is Theo Dykstra, Denise Harrison, and Kerri-Lynn Hickman.
- BGSD has developed processes and procedures for a NEW Black Gold Virtual School that will be eligible for the new Distance Education grant for online students with Non-Primary Registration from Alberta Education.



In the Student Services Department, Cherie Corcoran and the Mental Health Capacity Building Team organized Park Pop-Ups for their summer programming, an opportunity for students to virtually participate in wellness activities while playing at the park. Students received wellness kits containing a variety of resiliency building activities, healthy coping skills and anxiety reducing art and crafts aimed at improving mental health through engaging in social emotional programs and were able to have virtual conversations with the Mental Health Capacity Building team online.

The Summer School Program and Summer Off-Campus Program were very successful. A large number of students participated in off-campus.

Associate Superintendent Volkman welcomed our new Finance Coordinator, Becca Armstrong.

Associate Superintendent Volkman provided an update from the Finance Department on:

Insurance:

- BGSD continues to work with other boards in Alberta Risk Management Insurance Consortium (ARMIC) to get the new reciprocal up and running.

Facilities:

- Caledonia Park School modulares are on site. Maintenance staff are working on the link which is expected to be ready in mid-September. The parking lot should be completed later this fall. Thank you to Leduc Community Baptist Church for the use of their parking lot for staff as well as the City of Leduc who have added a new crosswalk and lights.
- ESBCHS modernization is on track for completion in November 2021. In addition to the new construction, Cosmetology and Welding should be ready mid-semester with the Foods Lab ready for Semester 2 in this school year.
- Capital Maintenance Renewal (CMR) program is an acceleration of the future investment in school maintenance and renewal projects. The \$2.2 million projects will be completed by the October 31 deadline.
- The 50th Avenue Street Scape in front of École Bellevue School should be finished this week. The City of Beaumont added a new bus lane as part of the project.



SUMMER UPDATE (CONTINUED)



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk welcomed our new Communications Advisor, Deven Kumar.

The new high school in Leduc completed the design phase over the summer. The government has confirmed that the new school will be a P3 model school.

COVID-19 UPDATE



Associate Superintendent Monty provided an update on the Re-Entry plan:

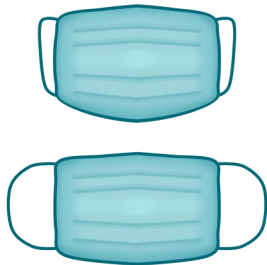
- Custodial hours have increased and more staff have been hired to ensure enhanced cleaning at all Black Gold Schools.
- At Elementary schools with morning and afternoon Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten, the custodians will be disinfecting the desks and tabletops between these classes. Desks and tabletops in all classrooms will be disinfected by custodians at the end of the day.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed at the entrance of every school and in some hallways of the larger schools. A pump bottle of sanitizer will be supplied in each classroom.

Associate Superintendent Volkman commented on updated plans.

- Transportation – BGSD is providing supplies for every school bus – hand sanitizer bottles, mask/shield for drivers, disposable face masks, latex gloves, ziploc bags and 2-way radios for the three transfer site supervisors at École Leduc Junior High School for additional student control.
- Buses will be sanitized before and after each run, and a cleaning log will be kept.
- Drivers will be wearing masks when loading and unloading the bus but not while driving.
- Schools – Water systems have been flushed. Air filters have been checked and replaced if needed. HVAC systems have been programmed to allow as much fresh air as possible into the building.



MASKS



Associate Superintendent Monty stated that BGSD is following the lead from Dr. Deena Hinshaw, CMO. The recommendation is for students in Grades 4-12 to wear non-medical face masks to protect one another. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 can choose to wear face masks.

The Trustees discussed that certain Boards were requiring ALL students to wear masks. The Board decided to continue to follow the directives of the Ministry and advice of the CMO, and only require masks of students in Grades 4-12 within the guidelines provided by the government’s re-entry plan.

If there are any changes by the government, then we will notify parents and staff of new processes. Masks will need to be cleaned daily. All staff in all grades are to wear masks.



WEST END REVIEW

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk requested that the West End Review be suspended at this time. Due to COVID-19, it is not viable to obtain accurate information from parents, and staff are working on COVID strategies.

The Board suspended the West End School Review, and requested to keep a monthly check to see if things have progressed.

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION



The Board approved to maintain all the trustee compensation and expense rates with the exception of the Trustee Development to be \$2240, and for the 2020-2021 school year specifically, to be reduced to \$1120.

MLA FOLLOW-UP LETTER

Trustees and Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk shared a letter written to MLA Brad Rutherford in regards to the BGSD school re-entry plan. The letter was also shared with MLA Rick Wilson, MLA Mark Smith, Minister Adriana LaGrange and Deputy Minister Andre Corbould.



2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk requested that BGSD delay the start of the school year to begin on September 8th instead of September 1st with three days of staggered entry dates, and everyone to be in classes on September 11th. This change serves to prioritize the emotional and mental wellbeing of students and staff as they prepare for classes during an ongoing public health crisis. Chair Klaassen stated that this is how the Board can show our staff that we stand behind them, and demonstrate to parents that their children’s safety and wellbeing is our top priority.

“Based on Black Gold parents’ choice, approximately 1400 students will attend classes virtually, and almost 50 teachers need to plan for teaching distance learning in subjects or grades they may not be familiar with,” said Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk. Our Principals need time to redo class lists, timetables, supervision schedules, recall educational assistants, and familiarize all staff with the enhanced safety and sanitation protocols, and plan for the unknowns so we are in the best position to provide a safe and meaningful educational experience. This decision also gives teachers and support staff the necessary time to conduct transition meetings with families that have students with special needs. Many of our staff are changing teaching assignments, and need more time to prepare and reconfigure classrooms to allow for the best physical distancing.”

Division staff will now work on adjusting class timetables and busing schedules, and communicating the changes to parents/guardians in the coming days.

The Board approved the delay of the 2020-2021 school year to begin on September 8, 2020 for students.

The Board approved additional time be added to school days to make up the balance of our instructional hours.

ADMINISTRATOR APPRECIATION

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk stated that since the announcement of the Re-Entry plan by the government in early August, BGSD has had numerous meetings with all of our school-based Administrators taking them away from holidays. Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk requested that the Board recognize all of the work that has taken place in an unusual summer, and to allow Administrators two days in lieu per school to be shared between Principals and Assistant Principals as they see fit for the 2020-2021 school year.



Trustees agreed that the Administrators need to be shown that the Board values them, and recognize their extra efforts.

The Board approved the allocation of one additional day per school Administrator in lieu of the time worked over the summer.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The Board approved the following:

- Policy 8 Appendix A - Board Committees - Terms of Reference with amendments.
- Policy 8 Appendix C - Board Committees - Confidentiality Agreement - Audit Committee Public Members.



SCHOOL VISITS

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk requested that the Board suspend all school visits for the 2020-2021 school year.

Trustee Steed suggested there could possibly be some virtual visits. Superintendent Romanchuk will explore this.



WELCOME BACK & LONG SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk stated that the Welcome Back & Long Service Awards Ceremony will be hosted virtually this year from Division Office.

The event will include pre-recorded messages, award presentations and a Keynote Speaker, Michael Kerr. Retirees, long service award recipients and new staff will be recognized.

All staff are invited to watch the ceremony from their school or work site location.

