



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

November 25, 2020



BOARD UPDATE



Chair Klaassen welcomed everyone to the November Board meeting.

"We have a hybrid meeting today in order to accommodate for distancing - with half of the trustees joining remotely.

We would be remiss to begin without acknowledging the rising number of COVID-19 cases here in Alberta and across the country. To all those who have tested positive, we wish a safe and speedy recovery. Our thoughts and condolences are with all those who have lost someone, regardless of circumstance, and all those who are impacted directly or indirectly by COVID and the resulting strain on our health care system.

We know this isn't over yet ...there will still be an array of emotions experienced and challenges to overcome, particularly as we move forward with the new protocols announced yesterday. We appreciate everyone renewing their commitment and doing their part to help keep our school communities safe; we continue to applaud all of our dedicated staff, our incredible students and their supportive families. Our deepest thanks and acknowledgement for the focus on connection, safety, and well-being, in addition to learning. We see the creativity and innovation that is shining through in finding new ways to honor and preserve traditions and events wherever possible, and are in awe of your strength and resilience in propping each other up.



Newt Gingrich said, *Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.*

We see the hard work you are all doing as you power through this storm, and we couldn't be more proud!"

COVID-19 UPDATE/ EXTRACURRICULAR

Associate Superintendent Monty provided an update on COVID-19. Our first case of COVID-19 was on October 4th. Since then there have been 60 cases, with 11 occurring this past week. All infections originated outside the schools. Notification letters were sent out to close contact families, followed with a general information letter sent to the entire school community.

Schools are continuing to promote the COVID-19 Alberta Health daily checklist, class cohorting, physical distancing, respiratory hygiene, and staggered lunch hours. Staff are working very hard. Thank you to Alberta Health Services staff who are working very hard on contact tracing.



Associate Superintendent Dargis stated that last June an announcement was made to postpone extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities include not just sports, but also field trips. Administration reviewed this and decided extracurricular activities are postponed indefinitely. They will continue to monitor the situation.

Trustee Eilander requested information on students writing diploma exams. Associate Superintendent Dargis stated that students can choose to write diploma exams. The exams will count for 30% of the student's final mark. This information will be provided to eligible students.

AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On November 18, 2020, the Audit Committee met with management and Black Gold School Division's auditors, MNP LLP, to review the Audited Financial Statements, Audit Findings Report and the Auditor's Management Letter for the year ended August 31, 2020.



Black Gold School Division had an annual surplus of \$638,743 for the year ended August 31, 2020. A net asset position shows that the Division has sufficient financial assets to settle existing liabilities. Overall, the Division has a sufficient level of reserves to mitigate risks related to potential changes in funding and unexpected expenses.

The Board accepted the recommendation from the Audit Committee to approve the Audited Financial Statements to August 31, 2020 for submission to Alberta Education.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Benji Waser, Partner with MNP, reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the Black Gold School Division for the period September 1, 2019 to August 31, 2020. The Independent Auditors' Report concludes that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Black Gold School Division as at August 31, 2020 and the results of its operations, its remeasurement gains and losses, its change in net financial assets and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. In the Statement of Operations, the operating revenues totaled \$132,380,894 and expenses totaled \$131,742,151 with an operating surplus of \$638,743.



Trustees thanked the auditors, and the Finance staff for a great job and professional work. Thank you to Associate Superintendent Volkman and the Finance team for a clean audit report.

The Board accepted the Black Gold School Division Audited Financial Statements and the Auditors' Management Letter for the year ended August 31, 2020 as presented for submission to Alberta Education by November 30, 2020.

REVISED FALL BUDGET

Associate Superintendent Volkman presented the fall 2020-2021 Budget which projects a deficit of \$494,608 for 2020-2021. Items addressed as a result of changes from the spring approved budget were:



- ◆ A decrease in actual enrolments, as of September 30th, of 672 students compared to the spring budget projections. This decrease is attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic as BGSD has experienced enrolment growth of at least 3% in the last five years.
- ◆ With this change in actual enrolment compared to projections, funding from Alberta Education that has been budgeted as revenue for the 2020-2021 school year decreased by \$2.55 million.
- ◆ Addition of the Federal Funding grant of \$4.5 million.
- ◆ A decrease in budgeted instructional staff compared to the spring budget as a result of the significant decrease in actual enrolments compared to projections.
- ◆ An increase in custodial staff of 9.5 FTE due to enhanced cleaning requirements.



The Board accepted the fall revised 2020-2021 budget for Black Gold School Division as presented.

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

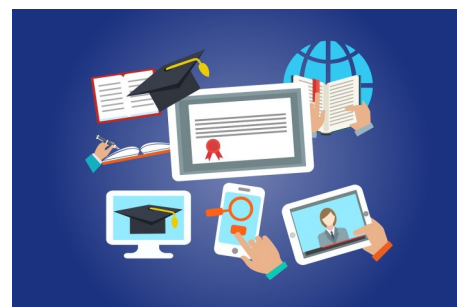
Associate Superintendent Volkman provided information regarding the Federal Funding for Alberta for a Safe Return to Class Fund. BGSD was allocated \$4.5 million, of which 50% has been received. Associate Superintendent Volkman provided a report displaying how the funding has been budgeted to be spent. This report is required to be submitted to Alberta Education by November 30th in order to receive the remaining 50% of the allocated funds.



THREE YEAR EDUCATION PLAN & AERR

Associate Superintendent Dargis presented the draft of the 2020-2021 to 2023-2024 Combined Three Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report (AERR) for Black Gold School Division, highlighting the following sections:

- ◆ BGSD started a new Virtual Learning Program this year which supports 34 students from outside our Division.
- ◆ We are supporting approximately 1500 students through Distance Learning.
- ◆ Trends and Issues, with implications of COVID-19 Pandemic
- ◆ Summary of Accomplishments
- ◆ Goals – Learning Services, Human Resources, Communications
- ◆ Accountability Pillar Overall Summary
- ◆ Outcomes and Strategies



An executive summary of the report will be posted on the BGSD website, along with the entire report.

The Board approved the Combined Three Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report for Black Gold School Division as presented.

ELECTIONS CANADA



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk relayed a request from Elections Canada to use our schools as polling stations in the event that an election were to be called in the spring. Due to COVID-19, administration recommended that we not use our schools as polling stations. If circumstances change, we can discuss this again at a later date. Trustees are in support of the decision to not use our schools as polling stations.

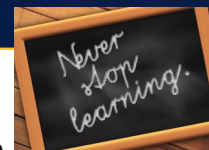
WEST END REVIEW



Trustee Eilander requested to see the data on the West End Review. Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk explained that last year the Elementary review took six months. Due to complications of dealing with COVID-19, he would like to bring back the information prior to the Board's Spring Planning session. This was acknowledged by Trustees.

CURRICULUM WORKING GROUPS UPDATE

Associate Superintendent Dargis commented that Alberta Education has requested three individuals from across the province for help with the new curriculum development. BGSD has submitted names to Alberta Education.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk shared a PowerPoint Presentation of School News which was prepared by Deven Kumar, Communications Advisor. Thank you to Deven Kumar for sharing this on social media.

There are lots of great things happening in our schools.

This "[School News](#)" is also posted to our website.

