



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

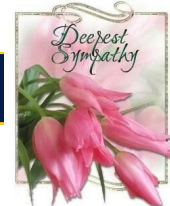
March 17, 2021



## BOARD UPDATE

Chair Klaassen welcomed everyone to the March Board meeting and provided opening comments.

"Before we begin, we would be remiss not to acknowledge the tragic event that occurred in Leduc earlier this week, leading to the death of a student. Our thoughts and condolences go to all those impacted by this horrific loss, and all families, students, and staff who have faced illness, loss or tragedy. Please join me in a moment of silence and reflection."



The beginning of this week marked the anniversary of school buildings across the province being closed down because of the pandemic, with profound implications. It's doubtful that most thought we would still be where we were at a full year later. I want to commend everyone for all that has been achieved and accomplished during this trying time. Kudos to how well variables that are in our control have been managed; while we're not yet out of it, there is hope. Please continue to focus on self-care and support one another as we continue on this journey.



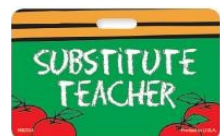
In March, our schools are highlighting a number of events, including honouring and celebrating Women's History Month & International Women's Day, where we recognize how women - past and present - have marked history and impacted society, and acknowledge the disparities that still exist.

### Women's History Month



Our French Immersion schools in particular celebrate Francophone Month - celebrating French culture and language and embracing heritage. I've been so impressed with the creativity of how staff have modified celebrations to meet protocols, and still uphold some traditions.

March is also Nutrition Month. Of course proper nutrition supports good learning. Schools not only support students in understanding nutrition, but also ensure that nutritious snacks and food supports are available to those who need it via the nutrition grant.



The second week of March is Substitute Teachers' Week. I'd also like to take this opportunity to give a shout-out to our Substitute Teachers (and all Black Gold substitute staff members). These people are such an essential part of our team and we are grateful for all you do to ensure continuity in our schools. Know that we recognize the added challenges and stressors that this year have brought; thank you so much for your dedication to supporting our students, staff, and schools, and all you do to inspire success."

## COVID-19 & DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATE

Associate Superintendent Monty provided a COVID update. To date, we have had 2,260 students and 282 staff that have had to isolate/quarantine. As of now, Black Gold has only two schools with active cases. Dr. Deena Hinshaw will speak to Step 3 on March 23rd, so BGSD continues to move slowly and follow Dr. Hinshaw's lead.



Associate Superintendent Dargis provided an update on the Distance Learning (DL) Program. In the fall, DL programs will continue. Starting on March 31st, BGSD will ask parents to declare the Choice of learning for their children for the fall. In August, BGSD will send a confirmation email to parents. If family circumstances have changed, a process will be in place to update selections. The declarations will assist in planning staffing, resources, programming and student supports for both In-School and Distance Learning.

## ELECTION AGREEMENTS

Associate Superintendent Volkman presented the election agreements with Leduc County and the City of Beaumont. With the changes of the new ward system, BGSD is working with the municipalities in updating the election agreements according to the Local Authorities Election Act. The election agreements were updated to outline the new ward structure, and to state that the BGSD Returning Officer will declare the election results.

The Board approved the updated Election Agreements with Leduc County and the City of Beaumont as presented.



## NEW HUMBLE CENTRE SCHOOL

BGSD and the New Humble Community School Association have agreed to sign the letter of intent regarding the lease of New Humble Centre School in the fall. Both parties will work on the language for the final contract which they will work towards signing soon, as there has been good progress and collaboration in establishing the letter of intent.





## THREE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

The Board approved the updated 2022-2025 Three-Year Capital Plan for submission to Alberta Education as presented which includes:

### New School & Modernization Requests

1. Leduc: École Corinthia Park School (2022) – Modernization
2. Beaumont: New High School (2022) – New Facility (capacity of 1600 students)
3. Devon: Robina Baker Elementary School (2023) – Modernization
4. Leduc: Solution for Willow Park School / Bridgeport (New 950 capacity K-9) (2023) – Replacement
5. Leduc: East Elementary School (2024) – Modernization



## NEW HIGH SCHOOL & ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk stated that the project for the new high school in Leduc is moving slowly. BGSD is waiting for information from Alberta Infrastructure on the P3 school designs.



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk stated there will also be some major road construction on the road in front of École Leduc Junior High School in May, and the road in front of Leduc Composite High School in July and August which may affect Summer School.

## COUNCIL OF SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk presented information from the February 23rd Council of School Communities meeting which will be utilized in our Strategic Plan. The event included 130 participants, which included School Council representatives, mayors, elected officials, and MPs Mike Lake and Gerald Soroka.



## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

BGSD is ready to sign the pilot project agreement with Leduc County to have an RCMP officer work with our rural schools as a School Resource Officer for three months starting April 1st. The Officers will be trained in the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) and will work to build relationships and will provide programming such as cyber safety.

## CRITICAL WORKER BENEFIT



BGSD submitted a total of 470 education workers to Alberta Education as eligible for this benefit. The benefit will be paid to eligible employees and contractors (to pass along to their employees) by the end of March.

BGSD has had great cooperation with the RCMP detachments and Leduc County in supporting our students and schools. The Principals will work with the SRO on the schedule.



## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk showed a PowerPoint presentation on 'School News' which included various activities during February and March at the following schools and is posted on our BGSD website under Board Highlights—March.

- ◆ Willow Park
- ◆ New Sarepta Elementary
- ◆ West Haven Public
- ◆ École Leduc Estates
- ◆ Warburg
- ◆ Caledonia Park
- ◆ Thorsby Junior/Senior High
- ◆ Riverview Middle
- ◆ École Coloniale Estates



### COVID Thoughts & Observations

1. The dumbest thing I bought in 2020 was a planner.
2. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
3. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay home!
4. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.
5. Every few days, try your jeans on to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.

