



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

May 26, 2021



do  
THE RIGHT  
THING...  
EVEN WHEN  
no one  
IS LOOKING

## OPENING STATEMENT — BOARD CHAIR

It's been another short track roller-coaster ride since our last Board meeting with curriculum discussions, budget planning, a COVID spike, shift to online learning, and now back to the classroom once again. This has been such a difficult year. The challenges many of our families have faced have been profound. The ripple effect from the pandemic itself has been tremendous: whether it be health related, job or finance related, stress related, or loss related. We have families impacted by the results of the pandemic in other parts of the world like India or Peru ... or deeply impacted by other trauma such as the war in Palestine or the anniversary of the death of George Floyd. While our school divisions have boundaries, our lives and communities intersect; our hearts go out to neighboring divisions, like St. Albert Public, who have faced the sudden loss of both staff and students.

Let us take a moment for reflection: to acknowledge and send strength to all those in our close and extended Black Gold family who are dealing with loss or trauma.

Given the circumstances of late, I've been reflecting on a quote from leadership author Cy Wakeman:

*Circumstances are not the reason we can't succeed; in fact, they are simply the reason(s) we MUST succeed.*

As a school division with a Core Purpose *To Inspire Success*, once again I wish to extend gratitude to all our staff, students, and families ... to each one of you, who are doing the very best you can, and in doing so are continually supporting and inspiring one another. Our circumstances are indeed changing. With spring in the air and the increase in sunshine, summer is on the horizon!



## TRUSTEE UPDATE

Trustee Sarah O'Gorman resigned from her position of Trustee and Vice-Chair of BGSD effective today, May 26, 2021. Chair Klaassen stated that, per Board Policy 7, as the resignation is within 6 months of an election, it is not necessary to hold a by-election.



**Goodbye and Good Luck** The Board of Trustees moved to forego a by-election and will complete the 2020-2021 term as a Board of 6 members, returning to a full Board of 7 members with the Fall Election.

## VICE-CHAIR

Chair Klaassen declared Trustee Steed as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division for the remainder of the 2020-2021 term. Trustee Steed took the Oath of Office as Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Steed stated she is willing to assume the following Committee positions held by Trustee O'Gorman for the remainder of the 2020-2021 term.

- Audit Committee
- Policy Committee
- Salary Negotiation – Custodial
- Salary Negotiation – ATA
- Salary Negotiation – School Support Staff
- ASBA Zone 2/3 (Alternate)
- Professional Development



Trustee Ofstie will replace Trustee O'Gorman on the Awards Selection Committee.

## ELECTION AGREEMENT — TOWN OF DEVON

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 agreement with the Town of Devon was 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 Agreement with the Town of Devon as presented.



## 2021-2022 BUDGET

Associate Superintendent Volkman provided the Board with the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year, for a projected deficit of \$4.71 Million. The deficit will be supported through the use of operating reserves, which must be approved by the Minister of Education. The planned deficit is to be used to:

- ◆ Provide increased instructional supports for numeracy and literacy
- ◆ Implement a comprehensive wellness plan at each school
- ◆ Maintain class sizes
- ◆ Support additional expenses related to operating under COVID-19 restrictions

The budget highlights, plans and assumptions were presented along with significant business and financial risks. The budget is due May 31, 2021.

The Budgeted Statement of Operations was presented along with the corresponding financial schedules. The Board will have an opportunity to revise the budget in the fall. The budget is projecting a deficit in Instruction of \$4.1 Million, a deficit in Operations and Maintenance of \$606,150, a deficit in Transportation of \$175,000 and a surplus in System Administration of \$212,000.



The Board approved the Budget Report for Black Gold School Division to be submitted to Alberta Education for the year ending August 31, 2022 with the proposed budget totaling \$134,998,042 in revenue and \$139,708,679 in expenses for the 2021-2022 school year, for a projected deficit of \$4,710,637, as presented.



## 2021-2022 FEES

Associate Superintendent Volkman presented the proposed School and Transportation Fees Schedule for 2021-2022. The approved fees will be posted on the individual school websites.

### Division Technology Fees

Grades 1-3 – \$10.00

Grades 4-12 – \$20.00

### Division Tuition Fees

(Day Extension Fees – Students 20 yrs+)

1 credit course – \$125.00

3 credit course – \$375.00

5 credit course – \$625.00

Pre-K Pilot Program – Non funded children – \$800.00

Foreign Student or Out of Province – \$12,000.00

### Transportation Fees

Administrative Transportation Fee for ALL students being transported  
(students eligible for funding & students ineligible for funding) – \$25.00

- ◆ Maximum of \$75 per family

Transportation Fee for Student Ineligible for Funding – \$330.00

- ◆ Kindergarten are charged at 50% of the Fee
- ◆ Maximum of \$785 per family

Transportation Fee for School/Program of Choice – \$330.00

- ◆ Kindergarten are charged at 50% of the Fee
- ◆ Maximum of \$785 per family

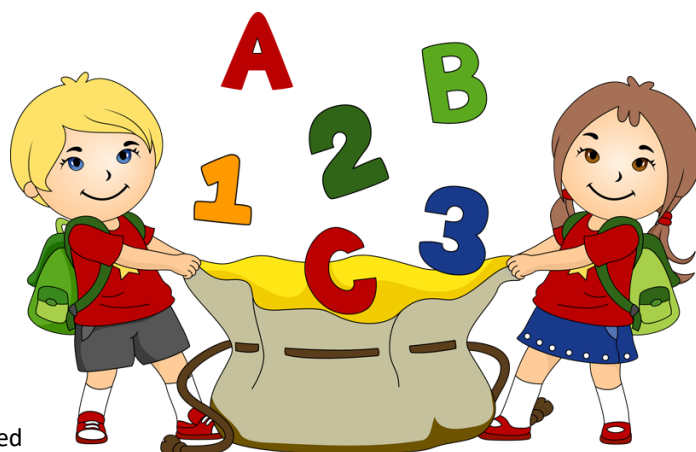
Student Bus Pass Replacement Fee – \$11.00

### School-Based Enhanced Course Fees

Pre-Kindergarten Enhanced Program Fee (300 hour program) - \$60/year

Pre-Kindergarten Enhanced Program Fee (400 hour program) - \$80/year

Kindergarten Enhanced Program Fee - \$100/year



The Board approved the recommendation from Administration for the proposed 2021-2022 Student Fees, as presented.

## COVID & DISTANCE LEARNING UPDATES

Associate Superintendent Monty provided an update on COVID-19. To date 5,718 students and 452 staff have had to isolate. BGSD continues to keep in contact with Alberta Health Services in regards to alert investigations, but for now it is quiet and there have been no new COVID-19 cases reported. Graduation information will be shared with Principals and Administration is continuing to receive new information from the government and will follow protocols.



Associate Superintendent Dargis announced there is a significant drop in parents requesting Distance Learning for the fall of 2021. Specifically, the requests for French Immersion Distance Learning are so few that the following decision is being considered for September 2021: Black Gold School Division will not offer Distance Learning for Grade K-12 French Immersion students in 2021-2022. BGSD is also reviewing the viability of English Distance Learning Kindergarten being offered. In August, BGSD will send a confirmation email to the parents. If family circumstances change there will be a process in place for parents to update their selection.

## NEW LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

The Board accepted the extension use of the Locally Developed Courses listed as reported by Associate Superintendent Dargis and summarized below:

Name	Credits	Authorization Period
Band (2021) 15, 25, 35	3 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2025
Band (2021) 15, 25, 35	5 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2025
Forensic Studies (2021) 15, 25, 35	3 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2025
Instrumental Jazz (2021) 15, 25, 35	3 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2025
Instrumental Jazz (2021) 15, 25, 35	5 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2025
Military Studies (2020) 15	3 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2024
Musical Theatre Performance (2021) 15, 25, 35	5 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2025
Improvisational Theatre (2020) 15, 25, 35	3 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2024
Improvisational Theatre (2020) 15, 25, 35	5 credits	Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2024
Reading (2020) 15, 25	3 credits	Mar. 16, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2024
Reading (2020) 15, 25	5 credits	Mar. 16, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2024



## CHARACTER EDUCATION CLASS

Two staff members teaching the Character Education Class (CEC) at New Sarepta Elementary School, Jayme Hiller, Grade 3 Teacher and Counsellor at NSES, and Jenna Bosch, Mental Health Capacity Building Success Coach attended the meeting.

The scope and sequence of the class was explained along with the School Mental Health Plan. A PowerPoint Presentation was shared of the Character Education Class.

The purpose of the CEC class is to help support students with healthy interactions, social emotional learning, relationship building and raising self-confidence. Some of the goals throughout the year are:

- ◆ Allow students a safe place to talk about feelings
- ◆ Acknowledge that ALL emotions are okay
- ◆ Healthy friendships
- ◆ Self-awareness
- ◆ Building connection to their supports in the school, community and at home



## CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Associate Superintendent Dargis provided an update that BGSD would like to continue planning the Celebration of the Arts for next year. The Committee has tentatively booked two dates - March 10, 2022, and April 8, 2022, at the Winspear Centre in Edmonton. We will begin the process to organize the Celebration.



## SPRING BOARD PLANNING

Trustees and Administration held a virtual Board Planning session from May 4 to 6. Some of the sessions that were discussed were: Financial overview, Learning Services, Department Leaders—operational work plan, Strategic highlights—Board development plan and Strategic planning.