



# BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

September 22, 2021



## BOARD CHAIR WELCOME & COMMENTS

Chair Klaassen welcomed everyone to the September 22, 2021 Board meeting and provided opening comments:



Good morning and welcome to the September 2021 Board Meeting, obviously back to virtual. At the school council meetings I have attended this month, I started my report with some shout outs. I'd like to offer these comments more broadly:

- ♦ Shout-out to our Students - for your patience and for continuing to adapt. Amazing!
- ♦ Shout-out to Black Gold staff - I know for many there was hope that this September would look very different from last. I know you're tired and it's so much harder to be brave and creative and resilient when you're this tired. We're sending you strength and energy each and every day.
- ♦ Shout-out to Families - there are a great deal of opinions and emotions around all we're dealing with. We know it is getting extremely difficult to handle this with grace! Once again, we extend gratitude for the patience, support and encouragement from our communities as we navigate schooling during a pandemic.



We know the best learning happens at school. We know our kids' mental health is best supported when they have face-to-face meaningful connections with staff and friends. We know the stimulation and activity of extracurriculars are beneficial. Thank you for helping us keep our schools open. We hope that the Black Gold family can set aside differences of opinion and face this difficult time together, with grace and support.

Next week, on September 30th, Black Gold will be closed to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as part of our commitment to further work toward healing and reconciliation. We encourage you to look for events happening in each of your communities. Staff and students will continue to recognize Truth and Reconciliation Week (September 27 to October 1) by incorporating Indigenous culture, knowledge and education within our classrooms and learning about the tragic history and painful legacy of residential schools.

**National Day for  
Truth and  
Reconciliation**



Canada



Schools across the Division will observe Orange Shirt Day on September 29th by lowering flags to half-mast and wearing our orange shirts in the spirit of reconciliation and hope - because Every Child Matters. We invite the greater school community to join us by wearing their orange shirts too.



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk reported on the Welcome Back & Long Service Awards Ceremony. This year's ceremony was virtual and a video presentation was created and made available to all BGSD staff and retirees to view. Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk offered his thanks to those staff members who worked hard to put together the presentation.

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Associate Superintendent Monty presented an update on COVID-19 in BGSD schools. There have been a total of 150 reported COVID-19 cases in BGSD schools to date for the 2021-2022 school year. Seven schools have declared outbreak status to Alberta Health Services (AHS) and a further seven schools currently have a call in to AHS regarding potentially needing to declare outbreak status.



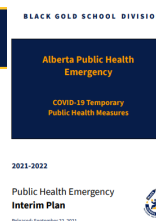
Associate Superintendent Monty stressed that BGSD has not and will not mandate vaccination in schools for students or staff. The decision to mandate vaccination would come from the provincial government, not from the Division. AHS may offer to establish temporary vaccination clinics in select BGSD schools, however, parents have been provided with vaccination consent forms and no student without a consent form signed by a parent/guardian will be vaccinated.

Associate Superintendent Dargis provided an update on requests to change choice of learning since the start of the school year. A total of ten requests have been submitted to change a student's choice of learning from in-person to online; this is a significantly lower number than what was seen in the 2020-2021 school year.

## UPDATED EMERGENCY PLAN

The Board approved the [2021-2022 Public Health Emergency Interim Plan](#).

This plan incorporates the temporary COVID-19 mitigation measures established by the Government of Alberta based on guidance from the Chief Medical Officer of Alberta and AHS.



## CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Associate Superintendent Dargis provided an update on the Celebration of the Arts. The Celebration of the Arts occurs every three years and is an opportunity to showcase the creative spirit of BGSD students.

The Celebration of the Arts was scheduled to occur on March 10, 2022 at the Winspear Centre. In light of the current COVID-19 restrictions and trends, and the potential for the event to be cancelled, Administration is requesting that the Board approve the postponement of the Celebration of the Arts to the 2022-2023 school year.

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## BOARD SPONSORED AWARDS

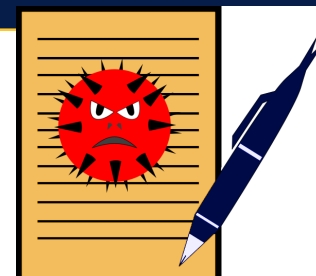
Associate Superintendent Dargis provided an update on Board Sponsored Awards. Administrative Procedure (AP) 370 Scholarships – Board Sponsored Awards states that scholarships are provided for secondary students in the categories of Academics, Athletics, Career and Technology Studies, Citizenship and Fine Arts.

At the Board's direction, a committee including Administration and a Trustee representative will review AP 370 Board Sponsored Awards. An Ad Hoc committee will be formed at the next Board Organizational Meeting to determine the Trustee representative.



## ADVOCACY LETTER—RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Chair Klaassen explained that an advocacy letter in response to COVID-19 is being drafted to eventually be sent to the Ministers of Education and Health. BGSD is working with other school boards in the drafting of this letter and the goal of the letter is to ask for clarity between what is an education decision versus a health decision and to ask that AHS provide notification to parents of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools.



## SCHOOLS & TRUSTEE TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk reported that BGSD schools will work with Michelle Haveroen, Indigenous Lead Teacher, to provide students and staff with activities for recognizing Truth and Reconciliation and honouring the survivors of residential schools during Truth and Reconciliation Week (September 27 – October 1).

The Board of Trustees will, as a team, participate in an activity lead by Michelle on September 29th.



## BOARD INSPIRING SUCCESS & SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARDS

Vice-Chair Steed spoke on the Inspiring Success Award of Distinction. This award is presented to a staff member who inspires others to succeed through their hard work and dedication. The winner of this award was BJ Butler, a teacher at École Secondaire Beaumont Composite High School. Vice-Chair Steed also thanked all the nominees for the Inspiring Success Award of Distinction.



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk spoke on the Superintendent's Service Award of Excellence. This award is given to an individual or group that has contributed to the Division above and beyond the normal scope of their duties. The winner of this award was the Student Services Staff. Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk also thanked all the nominees for the Superintendent's Service Award of Excellence.



## BOARD THANK YOU

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk and Associate Superintendents Volkman, Monty and Dargis offered a thank you to the current Board of Trustees and on behalf of BGSD. They expressed sincere gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Board over the past four years.



## CELEBRATING SUCCESS- SCHOOL/STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk showed a PowerPoint presentation on School/Student/Staff Recognition which included various activities during September by the following schools, students and/or staff:

(Note: A link for the presentation will be posted to the BGSD website under [Board Highlights – School News - September 22, 2021.](#))

- ◆ Caledonia Park School
- ◆ École Leduc Estates School
- ◆ Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) Team
- ◆ West Haven Public School
- ◆ École Champs Vallée School
- ◆ Black Gold Outreach—Beaumont School
- ◆ École Leduc Junior High School
- ◆ École Corinthia Park School

