



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

November 24, 2021



COVID-19 UPDATE

Associate Superintendent Monty provided an update on COVID-19 in BGSD schools. There have been just over 300 positive COVID-19 cases in BGSD schools since September 1, 2021. Associate Superintendent Monty commended parents, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and BGSD staff for staying vigilant and ensuring the consistent sharing of information which has and continues to enable students to stay in class.

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk responded to questions from the Board of Trustees regarding BGSD's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The questions included:

- ◆ Staff/Parent voice
- ◆ Duration of COVID-19 measures
- ◆ Legal situation
- ◆ Possibility of a petition
- ◆ Human rights questions
- ◆ Teaching of vaccine "propaganda"



The discussion can be viewed in full in the recorded version of the Board Meeting on BGSD's website.

2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk reviewed a working calendar and the survey questions regarding the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar. Surveys will be distributed to solicit feedback from Principals (school staff), School Councils Chairs, Grades 9-12 Student Representatives and Division Office/Facilities Staff. At the January 26, 2022 Board meeting, the survey feedback from the various stakeholders will be reviewed and the Board will approve the BGSD 2022-2023 School Year Calendar.

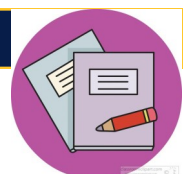
SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk explained that BGSD is in the midst of striking a committee for the naming of the new Leduc high school. Trustees Martinson and Hansen will be the Board representatives for the committee, along with the Mayor of Leduc and the City of Leduc's General Manager of Community Services. A notice has been sent to the general public and to BGSD school administrators seeking representatives for the committee. Administration hopes to provide the committee's recommendations to the Board by March 2022.



ALBERTA EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT (AERR)

Associate Superintendent Dargis presented the draft BGSD 2020-2021 Annual Education Results Report (AERR). The Board approved the AERR which will be posted on the BGSD website.





AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Benji Waser, Partner with MNP, reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the Black Gold School Division for the period September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. 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, 2021 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.



The auditors have satisfactorily completed their audit and are prepared to sign the Auditors' Report after the Board of Trustees review and approval of the financial statements.

AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On November 17, 2021, 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, 2021.



Black Gold School Division had an annual surplus of \$3,099,415 for the year ended August 31, 2021. The Division's net financial assets were \$12,751,659. A net asset position shows that the Division has sufficient financial assets to settle existing liabilities. As of August 31, 2021, the accumulated surplus was \$22,381,824, of which \$11,102,391 represented the accumulated surplus from operations and \$13,093,246 represented capital reserves. 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 Black Gold School Division Audited Financial Statements and the Auditors' Management Letter for the year ended August 31, 2021 as presented for submission to Alberta Education by November 30, 2021.

RESERVES AS OF AUGUST 31, 2021



Associate Superintendent Volkman explained that the Division's reserves have increased from the previous year due to the \$3.1 million surplus as of August 31, 2021. The Division has a two year plan, approved by the Board in March 2021, to spend operating reserves on the COVID Gap Recovery Initiative, which includes a focus on literacy and numeracy as well as student and staff wellness.

The Board supported the transfers to and from reserves as outlined on the Schedule of Net Assets.

SCHOOL FACILITY UTILIZATION: LEDUC/BEAUMONT

Associate Superintendent Dargis provided information on school facility utilization rates in Leduc and Beaumont and shared a presentation regarding Beaumont School Utilization Rates for 2021-2022. Leduc and Beaumont are experiencing consistent growth and neighbourhoods in both cities are expanding rapidly requiring an annual review to determine that school utilizations are being met.

The Board approved the formation of a working committee to gather further information and prepare a report on improving school facility utilization rates for the schools in Beaumont, to be presented to the Board at the January 26, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.





REVISED FALL BUDGET

Associate Superintendent Volkman presented the fall 2021-2022 revised budget and explained that while a fall budget is no longer required for submission to Alberta Education, BGSD continues to prepare a revised fall budget for operating purposes due to the number of changes from the end of May when the Spring budget is submitted to early Fall, including the September 29th enrolment count.

The Division is budgeting an operating deficit of \$2.2 million, with revenues of \$137.91 million and expenses of \$140.11 million.

This is a decrease from the \$4.71 million budget that was approved at the end of May 2021. The majority of this difference is due to a change in how Alberta Education is requiring the \$2.87 million Provincial COVID Mitigation funding be reported. When preparing the 2021-2022 spring budget, Alberta Education had directed that the \$2.87 million COVID Mitigation funding be recorded as revenue in the 2020-2021 school year to offset the funding adjustment due to lower than projected enrolments and hold boards harmless. In August, Alberta Education advised school boards that the COVID Mitigation Funding should be recorded as new grant revenue for the 2021-2022 school year instead.

Actual enrolment as of September 29th was 12,584 (WMA of 11,817.4). This is an increase from spring projected enrolments of 12,558 - increase of 0.24% (WMA of 11,788.6) and a 2.78% increase from 2020-2021.

The Board accepted the fall revised 2021-2022 budget for Black Gold School Division as presented.



BUS CONTRACTORS' LETTER

Associate Superintendent Volkman presented a letter recently received from the Black Gold Bus Contractors Association. The Association thanked the Division for the support they received in 2020-2021 and the contract rate increase for 2021-2022. At the end of the letter, the Bus Contractors Association stated that their goal is to work with Black Gold School Division to find solutions that maintain affordability to operate the current level of service.



At the end of October, the Division was advised that the 2021-2022 insurance premiums for contracted bus operators insured under the Alberta Risk Managed Insurance Consortium (ARMIC) would be increasing by approximately \$2,300 per bus. This is the second year of significant increases to insurance premiums for bus contractors.

The Board accepted Administration's recommendation to increase the urban contractor annual fuel allowance to \$750 and cover \$2,300 of the 2021-2022 increase to insurance premiums for those contracted bus operators who are insured under ARMIC.

In order to provide this additional support, the Board will have to utilize the majority of the Transportation operating reserves. Utilizing reserves to cover a portion of the contractor insurance premiums is not sustainable year after year.

TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

Associate Superintendent Volkman presented the Trustee compensation and expense reimbursement rates for Black Gold School Division for the past seven years as well as comparisons to similar-sized and/or surrounding school boards.

The Board approved the BGSD Trustee remuneration for the 2021-2022 year as presented with the adjustment of an increase of the technology allowance to \$100 from \$75 per month effective December 1, 2021.





CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Deven Kumar, Communications Advisor, shared the [November 2021 School News](#) PowerPoint Presentation of School News recognizing schools, students and staff from across the Division. The School News ppt is posted to the BGSD website.



CONTRACTED BUS OPERATOR ADVOCACY



Chair Klaassen explained that a joint advocacy letter signed by nine school boards has been sent to the Ministers of Education and Transportation. The goal of this letter is to make the Government of Alberta aware of the impact and challenges facing contracted bus operators and school boards. A copy of this letter will be posted on the BGSD website.



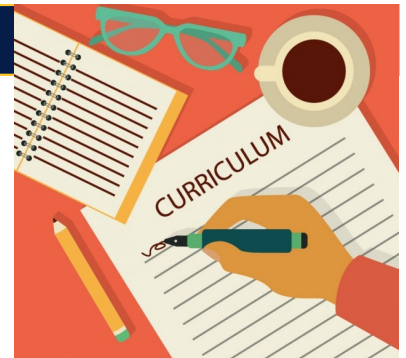
SCHOOL RESERVES IN BEAUMONT

Superintendent/CEO Romanchuk explained that in September, administrators and developers from the City of Beaumont met with administration from BGSD and St. Thomas Aquinas Roman (STAR) Catholic Schools. Both STAR Catholic Schools and BGSD pressed the issue of the lack of space for students in the City of Beaumont and that they desired a Letter of Support from the City of Beaumont to begin the process of asking the Government of Alberta for a new school. The City of Beaumont indicated that they did not have a shovel-ready site available yet. There is going to be another meeting with all parties in December 2021.



CURRICULUM ADVOCACY

Chair Klaassen stated that the Division continues to be involved in all aspects of the curriculum review through the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) and the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS). The Minister of Education has indicated that implementation of the new curriculum is set for September 2022. A resolution was passed at the ASBA Fall General Meeting to lobby for a two year hold on curriculum implementation to allow for adequate time for the review of the draft.



Nap



Time

As I age, I realize that. . .

When I was a child, I thought nap time was a punishment.

Now it's a mini-vacation!

