



Black Gold School Division
Council of School Councils Minutes
October 28, 2024 at 6:30 - 8:00 pm
5th floor, County Centre 1103, 5 street, Nisku Ab

1. Meeting called to order by Joanna Stokes at 6:35pm.
2. Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement by Devonna Klaassen.
3. Joanna welcomed all those in attendance, thanking them for their time and participation.
4. Introduction of agenda and review of minutes.
 - a. Review of [CoSC Minutes - May 15, 2024](#) approved by consensus.
5. Business
 - a. Annual School Council Report Feedback - Mixed reviews - neutral to favourable. Same amount of work for some Chairs, new Chairs found it easy and helpful. Improvement suggestion: Ability to access report in its entirety post submission helpful to Chairs who use the report for additional purposes.
 - b. [Alberta School Council Engagement \(ASCE\) Grant](#) ideas to share: conference ASCA year end really enjoyed the speakers. Finding it hard to engage older age schools with speakers/engagement, an idea: sports nutrition workshop with both parents and kids at junior high level. Taylor Nutrition was a wonderful well received workshop (CCS). Institute of Child Psychology Tammy Schmoon online presentation (LCHS), Social Media presentation partnered with Junior high and West Haven (LCHS), member mentioned asked for parent volunteers to donate food/fundraising society to go with workshop.
 - c. [MyBlueprint engagement](#) LCHS hosting info night Nov. 27th 7:00pm, open to all BGSD families. LCHS will distribute info. Health teachers introducing to grade 7-9. Helps pave the path thru highschool to post secondary with career choice and scholarships, ***Use a non-school email account to enable access beyond highschool
 - d. [Best Practices for Black Gold School Councils](#) Joanna reminded Councils to access and share information.
 - e. [Superintendent Engagement](#) shared by Michael Borgfjord. Highlights:
 - Alberta Government's Accelerator Program - BGSD optimistic for funding announcement in spring
 - Cell phone policy - BGSD left it flexible, feedback from Principals positive, students have been fairly compliant
 - Other Notable Items #3. Additional Provincial Funding....2024 spring funding announcements meant cuts for BGSD; Board chose to designate reserves to help moderate the effects of the

cuts. New funding allows BGSD to pull back from use of reserves and will not result in more spending.

- Professional Learning: (f) VTRA - Violent Threat and Risk Assessment

- Upcoming areas of interest - Youth Leadership Conference; Student Voice with trustees; Board is looking to attract students with diverse interests and personality types, a committee has been started

- Additional Superintendent comments - BGSD cares about students and colleagues, values supporting people and environment, aims to be one of the best divisions in the country.

Trustee Gary Hansen had a comment - importance in school due to staffing. Only can do so much with the money you have, per student funding in Alberta we (Alberta students) are the lowest in Canada.

f. [Division Trustee Report](#) shared by Esther Eckert. Highlights:

- Trustees learn as well

- Funding Analogy - highlighted 'brick wall' analogy for funding; funding is applied in layers, complexity in how funds are added based on layering

- Funding, needs are greater than funds received

- Advocacy is a key purpose of the Board

- Advocacy, Facilities - Shovel ready site for potential new Beaumont High School; shovel ready prerequisite for potential Gov't funding

- Advocating for sustainable dual credit funding; BGSD funds post secondary courses for high school students to explore as a gateway/jumpstart to continued education

- Advocacy, Funding Sustainability & Equity - gov't funding starts programs but often lacks in sustainability, current funding model favors divisions with declining enrollment and is detrimental to growing divisions. BGSD wants funding for 'bums in seats', currently 200 unfunded students in division

- Chairs Request Template Letter in support of funding model change - this is in the works; not ready yet; will be presented to CosC

g. Topics for Next Meeting - What are some Division initiatives and/or policies that Councils would like to learn more about?

- Visible Learning how does it come back to parents? If at all? What can parents do? Come in at all angles.

- Student code of conduct - no mention of racism. - member Chair Request for Racism

Language to be included/stronger in board policies - board response, policy review is next on the docket; policy 19, relevant policy is up for review; board acknowledged anti-racism policy

needs bolstering and proposes the draft come back to CoSc; Trustee acknowledged the consequence of racist actions matter within the policy; (entire BGSD Policy Committee present).

-Transportation issues. Children on bus for 1.5 hours or long transfers at other schools. What are alternatives?

6. Board Elections of CoSC Positions for the 2024/2025 School Year

a. Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Positions are for a 1 year term.

- Chair, Joanna Stokes (Leduc Estates)
- Vice-Chair, Vacant
- Secretary, Sandra Jory (Ohpaho)

All in favour.

7. Next Meeting Dates January 20, 2025 and May 26, 2025

8. Adjournment 8:25pm