



**BLACK GOLD
REGIONAL
DIVISION NO. 18**

PIPELINE

Volume 13, No. 3 – June, 2010



Chairman, Board of Education

Another school year is quickly coming to an end. Trustees completed school visits in April and commend staff and students for the school tours. Each school is unique and has so many great attributes to boast about. Black Gold is truly the best Division in the province!

Many of our high schools hosted graduations in May and Trustees were honoured to be a part of the celebration. The enthusiasm and accomplishments of students re-affirm the Trustees' role of advocating for education.

The new Thorsby Elementary School is approximately 73% complete, and progress is ongoing. The job of moving desks, furniture, boxes, books etc., comes along with any new school or modernization. Thank you to all staff for your patience and hard work.



Speaking of new schools – the Beaumont joint school (separate and public) will not occur in the near future, perhaps not for two or three years, and that is being optimistic. This school has been our number one priority project on our Capital Plan since 2003, however, Alberta Education has not announced any new Capital money for building schools. This is disappointing after the many meetings that occurred and the Minister of Education's decision not to push this forward sooner.

Strategic Planning is continuous, as change is inevitable. Mentorship, school enrolment, grade configuration, budget implications and school boundaries are but a few of the ongoing issues and initiatives.

We welcome Superintendent, Norm Yanitski back from his secondment at Alberta Education. The leadership of Stuart Evans during Norm's absence was very much appreciated by the Board. Also, kudos to Dennis Nosyk who did a great job managing the Human Resources Department.



I wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer and I look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Back in September.

Barb Martinson, Chairman, Board of Education, 780-955-6025 – barb.martinson@blackgold.ca

Superintendent

I am always surprised how quickly June arrives. Each year starts with the promise of yet more interesting and amazing things to come – and they do. But while we are all so focused on our responsibilities, the year seems to just slip by.

It has been an interesting and exciting year. I'd like to thank all of you for making this year so rewarding as I accepted the challenges of the temporary position of Superintendent of Schools. The interesting calls, the successes of both our students and staff, and the enviable position we find ourselves in today have all played a part in how much I have enjoyed the school year.



We've had a great year! We do face challenges in the year to come but we've collaboratively come up with a plan to continue our path of success. Your support and input have been a tremendous help in our planning process.

For those of you who are retiring, Congratulations! I wish you all the best in the next phase of your life. For the rest of you – have a well-deserved holiday and I'll see you all again in September.

Stuart Evans, Superintendent of Schools, 780-955-6026 – stuart.evans@blackgold.ca



Associate Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction

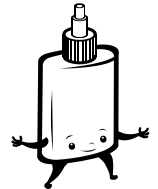
June. That word holds such promise. Visions of outdoors, time with family, rest, and even more rest. It truly is time for a well-deserved break.

When we return in late August, we will be very close to completing the transition our Resource Allocation Committee implemented two years ago, of moving away from curriculum lead teachers to administrators as instructional leaders. The two lead teacher positions we preserved are Carolyn Reny in English Language Learners (ESL), and Barb Roy as Chef d'Équipe. Our instructional leaders are Howard Rasmusson (Secondary Mathematics), Ray Cable (Elementary Science), and Bill Romanchuk (Secondary Science). We will be looking for an administrator to step up for Henry Kozak (Junior High Knowledge & Employability) and another for Paul Wozny (Junior High CTS). As well, other administrators will provide support in specific areas as needs emerge.

Before I conclude, a huge thank you to all Black Gold colleagues. Even when swamped by “challenging” inquiries from parents, we have heard more compliments than criticisms. Hopefully, this is a new trend that will carry forward into next year. People do seem genuinely thankful, and we create that favourable impression through what happens on a daily basis in schools.

Enjoy summer and a thought to ponder when relaxing – why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Neil Fenske, Associate Superintendent, 780-955-6028 – neil.fenske@blackgold.ca



Associate Superintendent Human Resources

HR has been busy with staffing over the past few weeks. Schools made their best estimates as to the number of students they were expecting next September and they were staffed accordingly. Although down in total number of teachers this year, all continuous contracts were honoured as well as most probationary ones. Presently, postings are out for teaching positions, most of them are temporary. We will be unable to determine a final total number of teachers for BGRD until the September 30th student counts are in and, as is usual, more teachers will be added in September, if necessary.

This year, we were successful in rolling out the sub-service program to all schools. It appears that the system is working well and both teachers and substitute teachers are happy with it. We are presently working on having the same service available for support staff.

All school administrators worked on the Principal Quality Guidelines at one time or another this year, and we have come as far as we can, for now. Thank you to Jacquie Skytt and Konni deGoeij from the ATA for leading us through this process. We made further progress than first expected due to their guidance, in that we were able to develop a supervision model for BGRD using the Principal Quality Guidelines as they pertain to our Division. Our committee consisted of Cal Monty, Norm Dargis, Bill Romanchuk, Susanne Stroud, Matthew Kierstead, Peter Balding, Denise Harrison, Dianne Butler and Dennis Nosyk. Thank you to everyone for putting so much time and effort into making this model work for us. Everyone will get another look at it in the fall.



Support Staff – Job Opportunities

Job opportunities for support staff will be placed on our web site (www.blackgold.ca) during the months of July and August.

Have a great summer everyone!

Dennis Nosyk, Associate Superintendent, 780-955-6032 – dennis.nosyk@blackgold.ca



Secretary-Treasurer

The Budget Report for August 31, 2011 was presented to the Board of Education at the Regular Board Meeting, May 26, 2010. The budget projects a deficit of \$1,199,246 which will be supported through the use of operating reserves. Projected revenues and expenditures by program are as follows:

Revenues	2010-2011	%
Instruction	\$65,563,052	77.87%
Operations & Maintenance	\$11,790,388	14.00%
Transportation	\$3,664,727	4.35%
Board & System Administration	\$2,889,841	3.43%
External Services	\$291,580	0.35%
	\$84,199,588	100%

Expenditures	2010-2011	%
Instruction	\$66,351,261	78.80%
Operations & Maintenance	\$12,103,768	14.38%
Transportation	\$3,675,917	4.37%
Board & System Administration	\$2,976,308	3.53%
External Services	\$291,580	0.35%
Surplus(Deficit)	\$(1,199,246)	-1.42%
	\$84,199,588	100.00%

Budget assumptions include:

- a projected enrolment decline of 136 students
- a 0% grant increase in all programs
- no increase in student fees levied by the Board
- the deferral for one year of PD allocations for teachers and support staff
- the reduction in site-based allocations to the schools
- an increase in the Pupil/Teacher Ratio by .2 and
- the closing off of areas of schools which have a low utilization rate.



We will face significant challenges in the upcoming year in the Instructional program and the Operations and Maintenance program.

BGRS is currently in a strong financial position, with operating and capital reserves to support us throughout the year. However, deficit budgeting is not sustainable. We will need to see a grant increase in the following year if we are to maintain the same level of services that we currently provide to our students.



Construction on the Thorsby Elementary Replacement School is currently underway and we continue to strongly advocate for a new school in Beaumont. Our Three Year Capital Plan includes a request for the modernization of Calmar Secondary School as our top school preservation priority.

Thank you to the members of the Resource Allocation Committee for your input into preparing the budget for next year. I wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer. Have a great break!

Ruth Andres, Secretary-Treasurer, 780-955-6049 – ruth.andres@blackgold.ca



Business Services Payroll and Benefit Information

Adding a Dependant for Benefits

Avoid late applicant benefit status during the summer by notifying payroll immediately if you:

- get married
- have a baby
- lose spousal coverage.



Change of Address

All address changes should now be completed on employee self-service. If you do not have access to a computer during the summer, please be sure to advise the payroll department via fax and they will update your address with the appropriate benefit carriers. Please note, this change will be verified by payroll and accepted, so it may take a few days to show the updated address in the ESS System.

Employment Confirmation

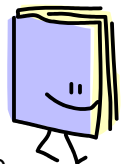
Employees requiring employment confirmation for mortgage purposes or verification of service information during the summer should submit these requests prior to July 1st. This will ensure that appropriate Central Office personnel are available to process requests, otherwise, response time may be delayed as holidays are scheduled during the summer.

Health Spending Accounts (HSA)

The Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan Health Spending Account is online. If you are terminating at the end of June, you have 60 days from June 30th to apply for any remaining HSA credits. If you are not terminating, you have 60 days from August 31st to apply for HSA credits. If you have not incurred any other expenses that qualify for HSA reimbursement, remember that you can claim the employee portion of premiums paid for health benefits. If you have any questions, please call ASEBP at 780-431-4786 or toll free at 1-877-431-4786.

Benefit Handbook

ASEBP has made the decision to “go green” and will no longer be providing paper copies of the benefit handbook to all employees. Therefore, for easy access, we have added the link for the electronic version of the handbook to the main page of the Black Gold web-site, www.blackgold.ab.ca. Our plan numbers are Life Insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment – Plan 2, Extended Disability – Plan D, Extended Health Care – Plan 1, Dental and Vision Care – Plan 3.



Teachers

For all teachers whose contracts are continuing, regular pay dates will be the last banking day of the month, as usual. The June, July and August pay vouchers will continue to be sent via email to your Black Gold address.

For those teachers whose contracts are terminating (temporary contracts, early retirements or resignations), benefits, including your health spending account, terminate on the last day worked (ie. June 29th).

Direct deposits for July and August pay dates will be July 14th & 15th.

Records of Employment are submitted electronically to Service Canada. You no longer require a paper copy, as you can access your ROE online.

Mileage and Expense Claim Reimbursements from Accounts Payable to Staff

Please ensure that all mileage and expense claims are submitted prior to summer vacation.

Have a great summer!



Contact Information:

Carrie Bendfeld (Custodians, Sub SS/EA, Misc. Hourly & Benefits) – 780-955-6055 carrie.bendfeld@blackgold.ca

Donna Kumpula (Support Staff) – 780-955-6053 donna.kumpula@blackgold.ca

Cindy Sobey (Teachers, Trustees, Sub Teachers) – 780-955-6052 cindy.sobey@blackgold.ca

Laurel Kvarnberg, Finance Manager, 780-955-6059 – laurel.kvarnberg@blackgold.ca



Student Services

As we reflect upon the 2010-11 school year, I would like to thank all staff members who contributed to the progress and development of our most vulnerable students. As is often the case, the impact of educational interventions is not immediate or dramatic. However, the energy and effort you put into helping our students become more personally independent and to maximize their potential is making a significant difference in their lives.

I am excited about rolling out Our Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) project in September 2010. Through collaboration with our community based partners, we look forward to being able to provide greater supports to help address the social/emotional needs of our students.

There will be more information forthcoming on the Setting the Direction Initiative soon. While there are no major changes to special education anticipated for September, 2010, we will continue to work towards the vision of a more inclusive education system through focussing on personalizing learning opportunities for students based upon their strengths and needs.

Enjoy your much deserved summer break!

Dianne Butler, Director, Student Services, 780-955-6037 – dianne.butler@blackgold.ca

Technology



Netbook Projects

Black Gold Regional Division is moving from computer labs to establishing access to computing technology within classrooms. Our focus is on core subject classrooms – Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics. Carts of netbook computers will be shared among teachers – current target is three teachers.

All such implementation must be planned and supported through initial professional development and the involvement of a school administrator. Deployments will be based on availability and readiness as demonstrated by previous netbook implementations. All schools received at least one set of netbooks in 2009/2010. If you are interested in taking part in a project next year, please speak with your principal.

Netbook Project Requirements include:

- Three core subject area teachers willing to work together.
- A well articulated plan developed by school administrators meeting with the teachers involved.
- The plan's focus is on student learning through the lens of Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) and personalization.
- Outline of administrator involvement to support teachers and to lead by example.

Making A Difference: Administrators as Ed Tech Leaders

- Five administrators, Dan Blackburn, Dianne Butler, Brad Clark, Matthew Kierstead, and Gayle Monsma (funded as 0.2 FTE each by Alberta Ed) worked with school administrators to support them as they took advantage of new technologies and Web 2.0 software to focus on instructional leadership.
- This program will continue in the coming year.

PowerSchool

- SASI is being discontinued as of September 2010, so we will be moving to a new web-based Student information program – PowerSchool.
- Using the train the trainer model, those schools using electronic gradebooks will have some teachers trained during the August workdays who will in turn train their staff.
- Secondary schools will have a common Junior High and Senior High report card format.
- PowerSchool has an interface to facilitate parent and student communication.

Technology – continued:

Passwords

- All staff passwords must meet a minimum criteria of eight characters including one special character (eg. !@#\$%^&*), and one number.
- Accounts without passwords registered as such will cease to work over the summer.
- If you have not already done so please complete and return the form located on the edtech wiki (login: ed; password: tech) http://edtechwiki.blackgold.ab.ca/Password_Change to Ann Gibbons, 4th floor Nisku.
- Please note that your email password and your network password cannot be the same.



Summer Support:

- There will be at least one technician working at any time during July and August, so if you do have a problem you can contact a technician through the BGRD main switchboard.

As always we hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer, without too many computer problems.

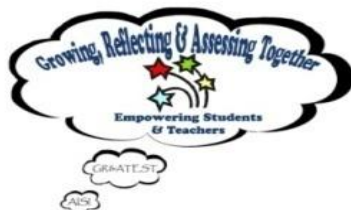
Peter Balding, Division Technology Administrator, 780-955-6040 – peter.balding@blackgold.ca



Alberta Initiative for School Improvement



As the 2009-10 school year draws to a close, I would like to thank all of Black Gold staff for working so collaboratively with our AISI Instructional Coaches and school-based lead teachers to improve student learning and teacher practice. We have learned so much in our first year of Cycle 4 about how instructional coaching works in schools and how effectively we can work with lead teachers. We look forward to continued growth in this relationship in the next two years of our project.



We bid farewell to two of our AISI Instructional Coaches, Kim Epp and Simone Lapointe, who return to the classroom. Thank you for all your hard work, ideas and energy! We welcome Michael Skoreyko as our Instructional Coach for CLASSE and Greg Luchak who will be joining our current GR&ATEST AISI team of Steve Trueman and Terra Kaliszuk.



Division Professional Development Days

Our Division PD Advisory Committee has been formed and has met to plan the professional development needs for the 2010-2011 school year. Thank you very much to the committee for your time and input.

PD for next year is going to be closely tied to Professional Growth Plans as well as Division initiatives such as Strategic Planning, AISI, Engaging Students (AISI-Technology-Student Services collaboration), Healthy School Initiative, etc. Watch for an overview of our new PD model coming out this month!

Look for the Division PD program online in September. The Division PD days for next year are January 31 and March 4, 2011, and the in-school Division PD day is September 17, 2010.

Continue to check the PD page on the Black Gold website for upcoming conferences and workshops, as this site is updated weekly.



Enjoy your much deserved summer break!

Denise Harrison, AISI-PD Coordinator, 780-955-4528 – denise.harrison@blackgold.ca

Operations and Maintenance

It looks as though we will survive another school year.

THANK YOU!

With the cooperation of teaching staff this past year, Facilities was able to complete several projects while the schools were occupied. We were able to convert a classroom into a Home-Economics room at Thorsby High; we painted nine classrooms at Robina Baker School (while classes shifted from room to room); and we even did a complete flooring replacement in the large Library at ESBCHS as well as other various projects. The cooperation we received from the schools was greatly appreciated as our work load is now reduced for the summer. We all know summer is never long enough for all that is required to be done.

The long awaited Modular for Bellevue finally arrived the week of June 4th. This Modular will be serviced and ready for occupancy by September.



In the February Pipeline newsletter, I was confident that the replacement Thorsby Elementary School would meet the target completion date of September 2010. There have been a few unavoidable construction roadblocks throughout the project that have made this date unachievable. The school is currently 73% complete with a projected substantial completion date of mid-September. If the completion date is achieved, there will still be approximately six weeks required for commissioning and deficiencies which will bring us into November. The actual occupancy date will be determined once we are at the commissioning and deficiencies stage. Although this delay is disappointing, at least we still have a Facility to teach out of until the project is complete.

Enjoy the summer and may your batteries be fully recharged for 2010/2011.

Dan Borys, Operations and Maintenance Manager, 780-955-6068 – dan.borys@blackgold.ca

Exterior of new Thorsby Elementary School



Future Library in the new school.



WELCOME BACK



& LONG SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY

***Friday, September 17, 2010
Leduc Composite High School***



**8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.
Continental Breakfast in Foyer**

**8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Ceremony in Maclab Centre**



P.D. Sessions to follow at individual schools