

## Update from the Board

Did you know. . .

Alberta Education has introduced new standards and expectations for teachers, school administrators, division leaders and superintendents.

- They are called Professional Practice Standards.
- Included in those new standards are expectations related to such important items as literacy, numeracy, Indigenous awareness and more. Alberta Education is also moving toward revising the school curriculum to ensure more focus on these important areas.
- BRSD has been doing lots of groundwork in these areas over the last two years, so we are well positioned to meet the new standards that are coming into effect.
- The new standards were signed as Ministerial Orders in February of this year. They will come into effect on September 1, 2019.

BRSD has a Student Advocacy group, with membership from each high school. They presented to the board on February 22.

- It is called SAVY, which stands for Student-led Advocates for the Voice of Youth.
- The students meet about once a month and talk about issues related to their education. Recently, they have done a survey of their schoolmates to find out what kinds of issues students are facing. They identified that students of all ages feel anxiety and stress. A specific finding was related to high school students and the stress of exam season.
- The SAVY group will be working with the BRSD Mental Health Capacity Building program staff to find ways of reaching students and providing mental health support.

More than 100 people were part of BRSD's February 8 collaboration day and it was great!

- There were 15 school council representatives there and a similar number of student representatives.
- The BRSD Board of Trustees, division leaders (like Learning, Student Services, Facilities, Transportation, Finance, etc.) plus all the school principals and vice principals were present.

- We are now making plans to host sessions in each part of our school division, perhaps during Education Week in April, that will allow more parents and community members to learn about the many programs and services.

The BRSD Board wants to get to know its communities.

- So far, there have been meetings with MLAs Bruce Hinkley and Wes Taylor, as well as a meeting with our neighbor, Elk Island Catholic School Board. The Trustees are looking forward to organizing visits with municipal councils and more in the months ahead.

We've been hearing from the provincial government that their spring budget will contain some harsh funding realities and we're getting ready for change.

- The BRSD Superintendent presented a revised organizational chart to the Feb. 22 Board meeting that will see a reduction in the number of Assistant Superintendents.
- This is the first step in trying to reduce expenses.
- More budget changes will be announced in the months ahead, once we know what our budget allocation will be