

**June 29, 2017**

## **BRSD Board hopes to “reset” relationship with Cornerstone Christian Academy Society**

At a special meeting of the Battle River School Division Board held on June 29, Trustees voted in favor of bringing their current relationship with the Cornerstone Christian Academy Society to an end.

All Trustees expressed regret that the educational partnership had reached the point of needing to be severed. At the same time, they expressed their genuine hope this action will make it possible to “start fresh” in developing a new working relationship.

In explaining their rationale for making this motion, Trustees spoke to the increasingly difficult dynamics between themselves and the Cornerstone Society Board. They acknowledged that both parties must take responsibility for the current state of affairs.

The BRSD Trustees agreed that this situation is not in the best interests of the students and staff, the school or the school division. Therefore, they passed a motion “to terminate the agreement between BRSD and Cornerstone Christian Academy Society, with the stipulation that the committee remain in place to work towards establishing a new agreement if the Cornerstone Society is willing to work together to develop an agreement that incorporates the content of the draft addendum related to working relationships and communication protocols.”

The master agreement in place between the two organizations provides for a 365 day transition period if the agreement comes to an end. For that reason, Trustees felt that this was the right time to take a definitive position.

“This is not a decision we have reached lightly,” says Trustee Kendall Severson. “As a Board, we were very pleased to welcome Cornerstone to our school family back in 2009. We thought the addition of a Christian program was allowing us to respect the diversity of our communities and the specific wishes of a group of parents. I believe that BRSD and CCA can work together to reach an agreement that is acceptable to both parties.”

“The most important thing is to keep talking,” says Trustee Rebecca Heiberg. “We hope this will lead to a fresh start.”

BRSD Trustees are adamant that if there is to be a mutually agreeable working relationship, it has to be developed by sitting at the table together with representatives of the Cornerstone Society. They are looking forward to seeing what the next steps will be.

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