



Update from the BRSD Board – September 27 Board meeting

- **We're getting enrollment numbers finalized**

School division budgets are based on student enrollment. The end of September is the official date that Alberta Education uses to determine the student population. Each school has submitted their numbers and our Student Information System folks are in the process of collating the information, ensuring there are no overlaps, etc. By the second week of October we will know our number.

- We do know that our enrollment is lower this year than it was last year, but our spring projections told us that was going to happen, so we were prepared for that change.
- A lower enrollment also means fewer staff, so that was part of our preparation for this year as well.
- A few BRSD sites found themselves with more students than they expected and over the month of September BRSD was able to make plans to increase staffing in a few locations.

- **We are actively recruiting for subs**

- BRSD is having a hard time recruiting substitute teachers and substitute educational assistants, in all areas of the school division.
- Please check our website www.brsd.ab.ca/careers for information on how to apply, if you're interested.
- This situation is not unique to Battle River – it's happening across Alberta.

- **Cannabis legalization is coming**

- October 17 is the day that cannabis use becomes legal across Canada.
- There are lots of questions about what this might mean for schools and school divisions.
- We're finalizing our new Administrative Procedure regarding Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs.
- In general, students and staff are not permitted to use any of these substances at school or when they are participating in school-sanctioned functions. Nor are they permitted to come to school / work under the influence.
- An exception, of course, is required for staff or students who have a prescription for the use of medicinal marijuana. Our procedures also address the issue of ensuring that, even in the event of medicinal use, staff are not impaired and can perform their duties safely and appropriately.

- **Student Success**

We were very excited to hear from a group of Tofield School students at our September board meeting. They were talking about how their new Titan Teams (a name based on their school sports teams name) are working to provide student perspective on school policies and practices.

- **Council of School Councils meeting**

Daysland School, Tuesday, October 16, 6:30 p.m. Please send a representative. Agenda will include a cannabis legalization update and presentation.