

Board of Trustees
Battle River School Division

Meeting Highlights



Every Student, Every Day, A Success.

Students share their
experiences with earning dual credits



Students from three different BRSD high schools visited with the Board of Trustees on May 23, to share their personal experiences with taking post-secondary level courses during high school.

The students took a range of courses, from Esthetics to Criminal Justice, from Health, Safety and Nutrition to Hospitality and Tourism, and Technology. Their courses were also accessed through different post-secondary schools, including Athabasca University, Bow Valley College, Lakeland College and Olds College.

The students spoke about how much they appreciated the opportunity to access these courses, which offered them the chance to broaden their knowledge based on their personal interests, rather than be limited by the option classes available through their school. They also liked being able to earn both high school and post-secondary credits at the same time.

Plus the chance to “test out” different career paths by taking these courses was very meaningful. For several students it told them they were on the right track, while for one presenter it resulted in a total change of future direction.

The Board of Trustees

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Board of Trustees Battle River School Division Meeting Highlights (continued)



Every Student, Every Day, A Success.

BRSD is preparing for tight times

Like all other school divisions in Alberta, Battle River is getting ready for the next school year. Difficult conversations are taking place throughout the province. This is a challenging time. Almost all of the funding school divisions receive comes from the Alberta government. The province is facing a time of financial restraint and we do not expect school divisions to receive any additional dollars, despite the fact that many costs are rising.

Here in Battle River we are also facing a decline in student numbers, particularly in our rural schools. This also reduces the amount of funding the school division is eligible to receive.

For these reasons, changes have to be made. We won't know for sure until the fall how much funding we're going to receive for the 2019-2020 school year, but we are required to have our budget and staffing plans in place by the end of June. We are making plans based on a budget that is less than we received this year. This means that there will be fewer staff in Battle River next year than there are now.

The school division's goal is to keep teachers in classrooms, in front of students, as much as possible. We also intend to minimize any reductions in Education Assistant time.

The changes at each school may be different, because every school has unique programs and needs. But all schools within the Division will be impacted by the reduction in funding.

Battle River has worked hard to provide all teaching and school support staff with a wide range of professional learning opportunities, to help increase their skill and capacity. Even though some specific positions may no longer be available, we have staff with great skills and ability who can support students literacy, numeracy, educational technology and individualized programming needs.

Ward review summary

Consultant David Steele, who has been working with BRSD to collect community input on the question of whether or not the Board's electoral boundaries should be revised, presented a report to the meeting on May 23. Board members will review the report and have further discussion on this topic on June 13.

School bus purchases

In keeping with the need to continually replace a portion of the school bus fleet, the BRSD Board approved the purchase of five school buses, for a total cost of about \$555,500. Funds for this have been set aside over a period of years.

- from the BRSD Board of Trustees meeting of May 23, 2019

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