TRUSTEE REPORT – Parent Council January 2021

Happy New Year!

COVID

BTPS like all school jurisdictions in the province is adjusting to the enhanced health protocols set out by AHS. Thank you to all families and school staff for adjusting their roles in the education system to accommodate for the enhanced measures required to ensure our students can remain in school. The BTPS website continues to be updated with COVID communications. Please use this resource for public information in our schools.

BTPS received federal funding to help with COVID expenses. Just over 50% of this money has been advanced to the division and has been spent on cleaning supplies, PPE, and teaching/support staff costs. There have also been donations of COVID supplies to classrooms, schools and busses that are greatly appreciated.

All board and committee meetings have been on-line for many months. As I understand it school leadership and administrative meetings are the same.

Budget Notes

The 2019-2020 financial statements have been audited and were compliant with all regulations. The board was impressed by the collective efforts of families, schools, councils, and central services to adjust to the new funding model and financial challenges presented in the 2019-2020 school year. Many efficiencies were found in cash flow procedures and seem to be sustainable into the new year. The BTPS audit committee, which includes 2 community members, has recently met and is preparing communication about the results of the 2019-2020 financial audit for the public.

Student Engagement

Each month the board meets with students to discuss topics of interest. Decembers topic was Creativity. Students shared what creativity meant to them along with different ways to be creative in the classroom. Novembers topic was Learning supports where students shared what helps them learn and how they overcome challenges.

Superintendent

Mrs. Rhae-Ann Holoien has hit the ground running as BTPS Superintendent. Rhae-Ann is reaching out to our school communities in new ways as school visits are respectfully limited. Timely newsletters, videos and television interviews are helpful to introduce her role and face to the jurisdiction.

Mrs. Holoien has completed the annual school review. Dr Folkins’ School is not scheduled for an additional review as you fall within the criteria of efficient operation. It is recognized that most rural schools are operating well below their capacity of students. I can provide detailed statistics at the next meeting if so desired.

Trusteeship

October 2021 is an election year for municipal government including school trustees. It is my intent to put my name forward for another 4-year term and welcome any others interested in school trusteeship or municipal politics to put their name forth. I have found the position personally fulfilling and challenging. It is rewarding to be part of a team so invested in the well-being of students and educators.

Trusteeship is an important link between school communities and government. We have all seen the effects of centralization of services such as health care that have often left rural communities floundering for a voice. Some provinces have abolished school boards and opted for an advisory committee structure to advise the government, who in those provinces have taken over the financial and operational function of the education system.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know families and staff in other communities and share our community successes at the board table. I appreciated your questions and feedback and look forward to the opportunity to continue representing the school communities of Edgerton and Chauvin.

2021/2022 Calendar

The proposed 2021/2022 school calendar is on the BTPS website. Students will have 181 days of learning same as the 2020/2021 year. We are working towards the goal of ALL those days being in person learning!

Stephanie

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