



BLACK GOLD SCHOOL DIVISION

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West End Review

West End Schools Programming Review: Equitable and Sustainable Education for All Students *The review will focus on ascertaining to what degree the current program offerings are equitable to all students in the district, how programming may be enhanced as well as the cost of maintaining or enhancing that equity.*

Periodically, Black Gold School Division Administration conducts a review of programming to ensure equitability and sustainability in delivering quality education to all Black Gold students.

In April 2019, the Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division set aside funds for a review of programming equity and sustainability of schools in the geographic west end of the Division. In the Fall they directed the Administration to begin a review of schools, including Calmar Elementary School, Calmar Secondary School, New Humble Centre School, Thorsby Elementary School, Thorsby Junior/Senior High School and Warburg School. This is commonly referred to as the West End Schools Programming Review.

The primary focus of the 2019 - 2020 review was on elementary programming in the area. During the 2020 - 2021 school year, the Board of Trustees directed that the process continue with secondary programming being examined in that area.

2019 - 2020

Quantitative data was compiled and presented to the Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division at its Board Fall Planning Sessions on November 14-15, 2019, and at the November Regular Board Meeting regarding the elementary schools of Warburg, Calmar, Thorsby and New Humble.

The data presented included:

- Population Trends
- Utilization Rates
- Class Size And Composition
- Accountability Pillar Results
- Results Of Standardized Provincial Testing
- Deferred Infrastructure Costs (As Projected By Alberta Infrastructure)
- Human Resources Added (Costs Per Student)

To ensure transparency, all of the information is available here:

[West-End-Schools-Programming-Review-Update-V4.](#)

Based on the quantitative data, preliminary recommendations were made to the Board of Trustees in January 2020. These recommendations resulted in the Board making a notice of motion to close New Humble Centre School, and direct Administration to follow the steps in [Board Policy 15 - School Closure](#).

At their special Board meeting in June the Trustees voted to close New Humble Centre School and move the students to Calmar Elementary School.

2020-2021

Secondary programming will be examined in the West End, including Warburg School, Thorsby Jr. / Sr. High School and Calmar Secondary School in the 2020-2021 school year. Preliminary information will be brought forward to the Board of Trustees in January and more in-depth information will be brought forward at their Spring Planning Session in May 2021.

Do the school communities provide any input?

The Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division will be engaging our valued partners in education, parents/guardians, staff and teachers, and other members of the community to help define the future education framework in its West End schools. Please stay tuned regarding future announcements about opportunities for participation.

The Division's Promise

Black Gold School Division will continue to be guided by its core values of: student-focused learning; relationships; supportive environment; passion; and managing resources responsibly while providing the best public education possible for all of our students now and well into the future.

West End Schools Programming Review

What Qualitative And Quantitative Data Will Be Examined?

In order to make an informed review, the following quantitative and qualitative data will be reviewed by the Working Committee and the Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division.

- Quantitative Data/Qualitative Data
- Population Trends
- Parent/Guardian West End Schools Programming Review Questionnaire
- Utilization Rates
- Class Size & Composition
- Accountability Pillar Results
- Diversity and accessibility of programming
- Results of Standardized Provincial Testing
- Deferred Infrastructure Costs (as projected by Alberta Infrastructure)
- Human Resources Costs)

The Working Committees

Members of the working committee for the Elementary Review include:

- Bernadette Hawkins, Acting Principal, Calmar Elementary School
- Bill Romanchuk, Superintendent, Black Gold School Division
- Calvin Monty Associate Superintendent, Human Resources & Administration, Black Gold School Division
- Devendra Kumar, Communication Advisor, Black Gold School Division
- Norm Dargis, Associate Superintendent, Learning Services, Black Gold School Division
- Raylene Jubinville, Principal, Thorsby Elementary School
- Wendy Maltais, Principal, Warburg School

The Working Committee for the Secondary Review

- Wendy Maltais, Principal, Warburg School
- Jon Ganton, Principal, Thorsby Jr. / Sr. High School
- Dan Lake, Principal, Calmar Secondary School
- Norm Dargis, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services
- Chelsey Volkman, Associate Superintendent of Business and Finance.
- Devendra Kumar, Communications Advisor
- Bill Romanchuk, Superintendent of Schools

Historical Information and Events

1. October 16, 2017: Alberta School Board Elections: two returning Trustees and five first term Trustees are elected to the Board of Trustees of Black Gold School Division.
2. March 7, 2018: 10 Year Facility Plan and Three Year Capital Plan prepared by external consultants was presented to the Board of Trustees and included information or recommendations on select West End schools.
3. 2019 – 2020 Spring Budget Process: Board of Trustees provide direction and budget to the Administration to do a review of the West End schools that examines the equity and sustainability of program delivery, transportation, and staff deployment.
4. The Board of Trustees appointed William Romanchuk as the Superintendent of Schools/CEO effective July 1, 2019.
5. September 11, 2019: Regular Board Meeting: Board of Trustees direct Superintendent Romanchuk and Administration to enter into a West End Schools Programming Review.
6. October 16, 2019: Regular Board Meeting: The review of elementary schools will be done first followed by the secondary schools. Administration will look at trends, administrative procedures and policies, and will have a recommendation to the Board.
7. November 27, 2019: Superintendent Romanchuk presented the [West-End-Schools-Programming-Review-Update-V4](#) report at the Board Planning Session and the regular board meeting in November.
8. January 8, 2020: The Board instructed administration to begin gathering information in accordance with Board Policy 15 - School Closure, for the Board to review which also included public consultation. The Board also gave a 'Notice of Motion' to consider the closure of New Humble Centre School. The Board emphasised the provisions of Board Policy 7 - Board

Operations; that allows for delegations to address the Board at regularly scheduled Board meetings.

9. April 22, 2020: Special Board meeting - The Board voted 6 - 1 in favour of closing New Humble Centre School effective, June 30, 2020 and directing students from that school to Calmar Elementary School beginning the 2020 - 2021 school year.
10. August 24, 2020: Regular Board meeting - Trustees voted to suspend the West End Review due to the probability that gathering reliable qualitative information would be difficult during the pandemic.
11. September 23, 2020: Regular Board meeting - The Board of Trustees directed administration to continue to gather data on the next quantitative phase of the Secondary Schools in the West End. Initial results will be shared with the Board in January 2021 and a final report will be presented to the Board in May.

Succeeding the West End, a programming review, administration will ask for Board direction to review programming in other geographical areas, ensuring quality education is being delivered equitably across the Division.