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# THE CHESTER R NNING CHEW

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DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020

Website at [www.brsd.ab.ca/school/cronning](http://www.brsd.ab.ca/school/cronning)

our staff want to wish you a very merry Christmas and happy holidays this season. We hope you are able to enjoy some time together as a family filled with love and laughter and rejuvenation. The school is closed from Friday, December 20-Sunday, January 5. We can't wait to welcome students back on Monday, January 6.

## **Calendar – link here**

<https://cronning.brsd.ab.ca/about/calendar>

**\*Please note that a full updated calendar is available on our website!**

## **JR ATB**

Students are taking deposits from any students and any amount on banking days (dates will be sent out on the calendar) during the year. If your child would like to participate, you can fill out the application sent home or pick one up at the banking days. As well you can reach out to me at the branch and I can help you here. We will open them an account and they can start saving! This is a fun and educational way to learn about financial literacy. I am so excited to be working with your kids this year! Please reach out if you have any questions! Cindy Olesen, [colesen@atb.com](mailto:colesen@atb.com)

## **January Calendar Dates:**

- 6 – Back to school!
- 7 – Grade 1 Board Games Club – 3:30-4:15pm.
- 8 – Kodiaks reading club.
- 9 – Early Dismissal @ 2:23pm.
- 10 – Subway hot lunch.
- 13 & 16 – Kindergarten field trips to the Camrose Public Library.
- 14 – ATB banking day.
- 17 – Staff collaboration – No school for students!
- 21 – Grade 1 Board Games Club – 3:30-4:15pm.
- 24 – A&W Hot lunch.
- 28 – ATB banking day.
- 29 – Kodiaks reading club.
- 30 – Assembly.
- 31 – School is closed.

## **Share your ideas, help shape the future - question number two is coming!**

Have you received a message from the Board of Trustees?

The BRSD Board is inviting all parents to share their ideas and thoughts on what's important for student learning. On December 13 they sent a message to all BRSD parents, which included a link to an anonymous online input opportunity called Thoughtexchange.

In the first round of the online exchange participants were invited to answer the question “*what are the things students need most in order to receive a quality education?*”

More than 1100 people took part in the process, and shared over 1370 thoughts. They also rated the thoughts of others. We appreciate every one of the students, parents and staff who took time to contribute.

Several very clear themes emerged from the consultation, and the Board is committed to following them up. The second phase of consultation will be based on two of the themes that were identified. The two themes are:

- 1) Students need: Options and Opportunities
- 2) Students need: Classes that aren't too big or too small

In this second round, the question will be:

***What are the best ways to balance class sizes and maximize options and opportunities for all students, while maintaining the financial viability of our school division?***

The consultation will be open from December 13 to January 10. If you did not receive the message from the Board or have deleted it by accident, you can find the link [here](#) or through our BRSD Facebook page.

The Board will use the information you provide to influence decisions for the future.

- *The Battle River School Division Board of Trustees*

## Board of Trustees Battle River School Division

### **BRSD Board votes to deplete reserves rather than reduce staff or increase fees to parents**



Every Student, Every Day, A Success.

The Battle River School Division Board of Trustees was faced with difficult decisions on December 12, as they worked to approve a balanced budget for the 2019-2020 school year. As a group, the Board felt it was important to maintain service to students as much as possible, by

- Protecting school-based jobs;
- Avoiding charging new fees to parents.

The budget process for the current school year began last spring. Initially, the budget reflected a 1% reduction in revenue. Effective at the start of the school year, the budget included staffing changes in the Facilities, Finance and Technology departments, elimination of one Director of Learning position, removal of the Learning Coach role and discontinuation of division-wide positions supporting Literacy, Numeracy and First Nations, Metis and Inuit education.

Additional spending reductions became necessary because of three main factors:

- lower than anticipated enrollment;
- unexpected increase in costs of insurance;
- unexpected elimination of grants.

There is an overall deficit of \$4 million. Some of that deficit is being addressed by making further reductions. The budget that was approved December 12 includes :

- the reduction of two staff in the Facilities department;
- f.t.e. reductions in the Camrose Early Learning Program due to lower than expected enrollment;
- staffing adjustments at three schools where the September 30 enrollment was lower than originally projected;
- and reducing expenditures for items such as (but not limited to):
  - upgrading student / staff computers;
  - Professional Development;
  - Reading University.

For more information contact Diane Hutchinson, Director of Communications  
Ph. 780-672-6131 ext. 5248; Cell 780-806-6632; [dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca](mailto:dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca)

#### The Board of Trustees

*Board Chair:* Norm Erickson

*Vice Chair:* Karen Belich

*Beaver County*

East: Lyle Albrecht

West: Zsuzsanna Hemperger

*Camrose County*

North: Karen Belich

South: Kendall Severson

*Flagstaff County*

East: Laurie Skori

West: Jeff Kimball

*City of Camrose*

Norm Erickson

Val Sims

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*Superintendent:*

Rita Marler

*Assistant Supt, Learning:*

Shan Jorgenson-Adam

*Assistant Supt, System Supports*

Natasha Wilm

*Assistant Supt, Business:*

Imogene Walsh



5402-48A Avenue, Camrose, Alberta, T4V 0L3  
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## Board of Trustees Battle River School Division

While all of these changes do make an impact on the bottom line, the bulk of the deficit is being addressed by using \$4.1 million in reserve dollars. These are dollars that had been set aside to cover classroom technology replacements, as well as unexpected opportunities or repairs that may not have been anticipated.

Using these funds means that, at the end of the current school year, Battle River School Division will have basically depleted its bank account. Specific capital reserves, which are earmarked for such things as school bus purchases, will remain intact. But capital reserves can only be used for the purpose they were established and are not available to offset a deficit, without permission from the Minister of Education.

The Board is very clear that this is a one-year solution. They are comfortable with depleting the reserves in order to maintain programs, preserve jobs and avoid imposing fees on families.

But as they look ahead, the Board knows that, with no reserves available to cover a shortfall, Battle River School Division cannot continue to provide service in the same way. Changes will have to be made for September 2020.

Discussion about the 2020-2021 school year, and beyond, will begin in earnest at the BRSD Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, January 23. As the Board said in November and repeated December 12, "everything is on the table" as we look to the future.

### Bylaw and policy changes

As a result of the decisions made this fall, the Board of Trustees also began the process of changing its Bylaws to reflect their upcoming reduction to the number of Trustees (voted on October 24) and also revise Policy 22, which provides guidelines for reserves.

### Share your thoughts, help shape the future — round two!

More than 1170 people took part in the first part of Battle River School Division's online public consultation process. The second phase of the consultation is open now, with the question **What are the best ways to balance class sizes and maximize options and opportunities for all students, while maintaining the financial viability of our school division?** Here's the link to the consultation:

<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/#534730602>

For more information contact Diane Hutchinson, Director of Communications  
Ph. 780-672-6131 ext. 5248; Cell 780-806-6632; [dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca](mailto:dhutchinson@brsd.ab.ca)



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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 2020 Camrose Music Festival

Festival is April 6-9; Grand Concert is April 14; Entry deadline - February 1.



The poster features a white background with a decorative border of green leaves and red berries. The title 'Free Family Winter Activities' is written in a large, green, cursive font. Below the title, a list of activities is presented in two columns. Each activity is followed by its date, time, and location. The text is color-coded: activity names are in green, dates and times are in red, and locations are in green. At the bottom, contact information for Rachel is provided in red. The City of Camrose logo is at the very bottom.

	<i>UPDATED DATE + TIME</i>
<i>Drop-In Christmas Card Making</i>	<i>November 28 4:30-6:30pm Camrose Rec Centre</i>
<i>Drop-In Snow Volleyball</i>	<i>December 04 4:30-6:30pm Beach Courts</i>
<i>Winter Carnival with Boys and Girls Club Food Bank Donation required</i>	<i>December 07 11:00am-4:00pm Camrose Rec Centre</i>
<i>Drop-In Christmas Card Making</i>	<i>December 10 4:30-6:30pm Camrose Rec Centre</i>
<i>Drop-in Family Sledding</i>	<i>December 14th 10:00am-2:00pm Jubilee Park</i>
<i>Christmas Public Skate</i>	<i>December 22 1:00-4:00pm Camrose Rec Centre</i>
<i>New Year's Eve Event with Camrose Kodiaks</i>	<i>December 31 2:00-8:00pm Camrose Rec Centre</i>
<i>Pioneer Party Registration Required</i>	<i>January 11 1:00-3:30pm Camrose + District Centennial Museum</i>

*For more information, contact Rachel at [rgulley@camrose.ca](mailto:rgulley@camrose.ca) or 780.672.9195*



### Camrose Aquatic Center Winter & Spring 2020

The following are the upcoming Leadership courses the Camrose Aquatic Centre has scheduled:

#### Age 9-11 Years...**Stay Safe!**

Friday	January 31	9:00am - 3:00pm
Friday	May 8	9:00am - 3:00pm
Tuesday	June 30	9:00am - 3:00pm

#### Age 11-15 Years...**Babysitters**

Friday	January 17	9:00am - 5:00pm
Friday	April 24	9:00am - 5:00pm
Monday	June 29	9:00am - 5:00pm

NEW - You can now view and register for Aquatic programs online!! Visit the City of Camrose homepage at [www.camrose.ca](http://www.camrose.ca), hover over the 'Recreation and Leisure' option, click on the 'Sign up for Programs and Courses', then click on the photo of the program you are interested in. If you need assistance please call the Aquatic Centre Office at 780.672.9909, or email us at [aquatic@camrose.ca](mailto:aquatic@camrose.ca).