



1041 - 10A Street
Wainwright, AB T9W 2R4

T: 780.842.6144
F: 780.842.3255
www.btps.ca

February 13, 2025

Via Email

Candice McLean
Community Development Coordinator
County of Vermilion River #24
Box 69, 4912 – 50 Ave.
Kitscoty, AB. T0B 2P0

Dear Candice McLean,

Thank you for your request to learn more about Buffalo Trail Public Schools service and supports to schools, families, and students within the County of Vermilion River. While your request to meet is very generous, we are hopeful that we can address many of your topics through this correspondence.

- Transportation – wondering about coordinating our GIS with your bus routes to support the snow removal and grader service?

We would welcome all opportunities to connect with the County or GIS representative to coordinate snow removal and a communication protocol to be used during bad weather conditions. If you would like to reach out to our Director of Transportation Garth Rapson (garth.rapson@btps.ca) he would be anxious to work with you to find solutions to concerns that come up.

- School Sustainability/long term planning – are the current number of facilities sustainable for future growth or are there any plans for closures?

The Board of Trustees works on the Division's Capital Plan annually in the spring and submits to Alberta Education each year in March. **HERE** is a link to our most recent capital plan submissions and our first value scoping report. The Board looks at a 3 and 10 year capital plan and is considered with all other boards in the province to have our projects moved to the top of the list. In addition to the capital plan, maintenance and renewal dollars are expended throughout the division though IMR and CMR projects to keep our buildings operating in a safe, healthy, and well-maintained manner. Any maintenance issues are dealt with quickly and efficiently.

At this time there are no planned closures in the division. Each year the Superintendent reviews the status of all the schools in the system and reports to the Board with factors such as enrolment trends, utilization of buildings, student achievement results, school budgets, course offerings and any other pertinent information. The indicators for review can be found on our website along with school closure policies – **HERE**.

- Joint Agreements between Schools and Community groups – can community groups utilize the schools for meeting space or use the facilities for activities (this helps us when supporting community groups)?

Over the years the Board has entered into several joint agreements between schools and community groups throughout the Division. Currently, within the CVR BTPS has reciprocal agreements with the Marwayne and District Recreation Board, Marwayne Public Library, Three Cities Public Library in Paradise Valley, Kitscoty Agricultural Society, Kitscoty Public Library, and the Town of Vermilion. We were also working with the County of Vermilion River to create the new JUPA, Joint Use and Planning Agreement and are waiting to hear back on our last proposal that was shared back in January 2024. Coordination of use of facilities is certainly beneficial to all parties especially in rural Alberta.

All schools in the division are able to manage use of their facilities guided by 503.1AP Community Use of Schools. In some cases, there are associated fees as the Board does not want to be in competition with local community hall facilities.

- Social Emotional Coaches – how does this program work and benefit County students and families?

We are very proud to support the social-emotional coach support program under the leadership of our Director of Inclusive Learning, Crystal Tower. The SEC program provides short term skill and strategy development to enhance student well-being. The SEC's provide students, their families and school staff with social-emotional skill building and positive behavior support. Here is a link to a very informative pamphlet of information from the team - **HERE**.

Buffalo Trail Public Schools is committed to the communities within our boundaries. We believe that education is a partnership and part of our commitment is to foster positive working relationships within our jurisdiction, both in the schools and out. After the 2025 Municipal and School Board elections we will be looking forward to an opportunity to meet with Mayors and Reeves to introduce ourselves and have conversations in matters of common concern as we both plan for the next four year term.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with your CAO for any additional information you may need or for further understanding of programs and supports in the Division. We value the opportunity for collaboration for the benefit of students, staff, and families in our schools.

Sincerely,



Michelle Webb,
Superintendent
Buffalo Trail Public Schools