

BATTLE RIVER ONLINE SCHOOL MEETING

VIRTUAL MEETING

March 3rd, 2021

TRUSTEES

Karen Belich, Chair

Lyle Albrecht

Jeff Kimball

Valerie Sims

Zsuzsanna Hemperger, Vice Chair

Norm Erickson

Kendall Severson

Laurie Skori

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools

Diane Hutchinson, Director of Communications

Jason Urkow, Computer Technician

Shirley Fairall, Executive Assistant – Superintendent

Chair Belich called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM

Ms Belich thanked the public for joining the meeting, read the Treaty Acknowledgement, and advised that she would be the spokesperson on behalf of Battle River School Division.

Chair Belich welcomed members of the public to submit questions, comments, or concerns by email to kbelich@brsd.ab.ca by end of day on Wednesday, March 24th, 2021. The Board of Trustees will be voting on the Motion to close Battle River Online School at their Regular Business Meeting of Thursday, March 25th, 2021.

Ms Belich advised that BRSD is required to follow Alberta Education's Closure of School Regulations, completing the following steps:

- a Notice of Motion was approved at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on January 28th, 2021;
- stakeholders were notified by letter mailed out on February 17th, 2021;
- a public meeting is hosted (virtually on March 3rd, 2021);
- written submissions will be accepted to end of day on March 24th, 2021; and
- after considering all the input and implications, the BRSD Board of Trustees will make a decision at their Regular Business Meeting on Thursday, March 25th, 2021.

Chair Belich reassured the public that Battle River School Division will continue to offer online programming. This formal school closure process is required to consolidate the administration of BRSD's online school with Camrose Outreach School. This will streamline administration but will not change the online programming currently available.

Closure of Schools Information

Ms Belich shared the following:

1. How the closure would affect the attendance area defined for that school.

As it is an alternative program, Battle River Online School does not have a defined attendance area.

2. How the closure would affect the attendance at other schools.

There is no impact on attendance at any other schools.

3. Information on the Board's long range capital plan.

- A replacement Chester Ronning School capital project is currently underway within the City of Camrose
- Approval and funding for the replacement of CW Sears elementary school in Tofield, modernization of Hay Lakes School and replacement of Charlie Killam School in Camrose are all part of the BRSD capital plan submission request that was made to Alberta Infrastructure
- None of these long range capital plans would be impacted by closing Battle River Online School

4. The number of students who would need to be relocated as a result of the closure.

Students of Battle River Online School do not attend classes in person. Their online programming has already been successfully integrated with the Camrose Outreach School. There would be no students relocated.

5. The need for and extent of bussing.

There is no change to bussing.

6. Program implications for other schools and for the students when they are attending those schools.

Online programming will continue to be accessible to all students of Battle River School Division.

7. The educational and financial impact of closing the school, including the effect on operational costs and capital implications.

- There would be no educational impact, as online programming will continue to be available.
- The purpose of the school closure is to enable administration of the online programming to be fully consolidated with the administration of Camrose Outreach School. This will provide financial efficiencies without impacting programming.
- There are no capital implications.

8. The educational and financial impact if the school were to remain open.
 - There would be no educational impact, as Battle River Online School would continue to be provided, using the current service model.
 - Keeping the school open would require the School Division to continue to allocate administration time.

Chair Belich reminded the public that questions, comments, or concerns would be welcomed through email to kbelich@brsd.ab.ca up to the end of day on Wednesday, March 24th, 2021. Ms Belich closed the meeting by thanking everyone again for participating.

The virtual public meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.