

Every Student, Every Day, A Success.



Artwork provided by Bashaw School Grade 1 Class

Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025

Battle River School Division Board of Trustees



Why we exist:

All students are individuals. They have unique skills and abilities, backgrounds and realities — academically, socially and emotionally, the definition of success is different for each of them. Battle River School Division exists to ensure each student receives the support they need in order to succeed at school.

Who We Are . . .



- We serve about 5258 Grade 1 to 12 students, along with 423 Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten kids.
- In addition to having 2 Outreach Schools and schools on 10 Hutterite Colonies, we have 19 schools in 13 different centres.
- Our schools are mostly in small, rural, east-central Alberta communities, whose population ranges from a few hundred to a few thousand.
- The City of Camrose is the largest centre, with a population of about 19,532 people.
- Battle River School Division covers about 6300 square kilometres.
- More than 3000 of our students take the bus to and from school.
- Our buses travel 8336 km every single school day. That's almost 38 trips around the world every school year!



Our Vision

*Every Student,
Every Day,
A Success.*

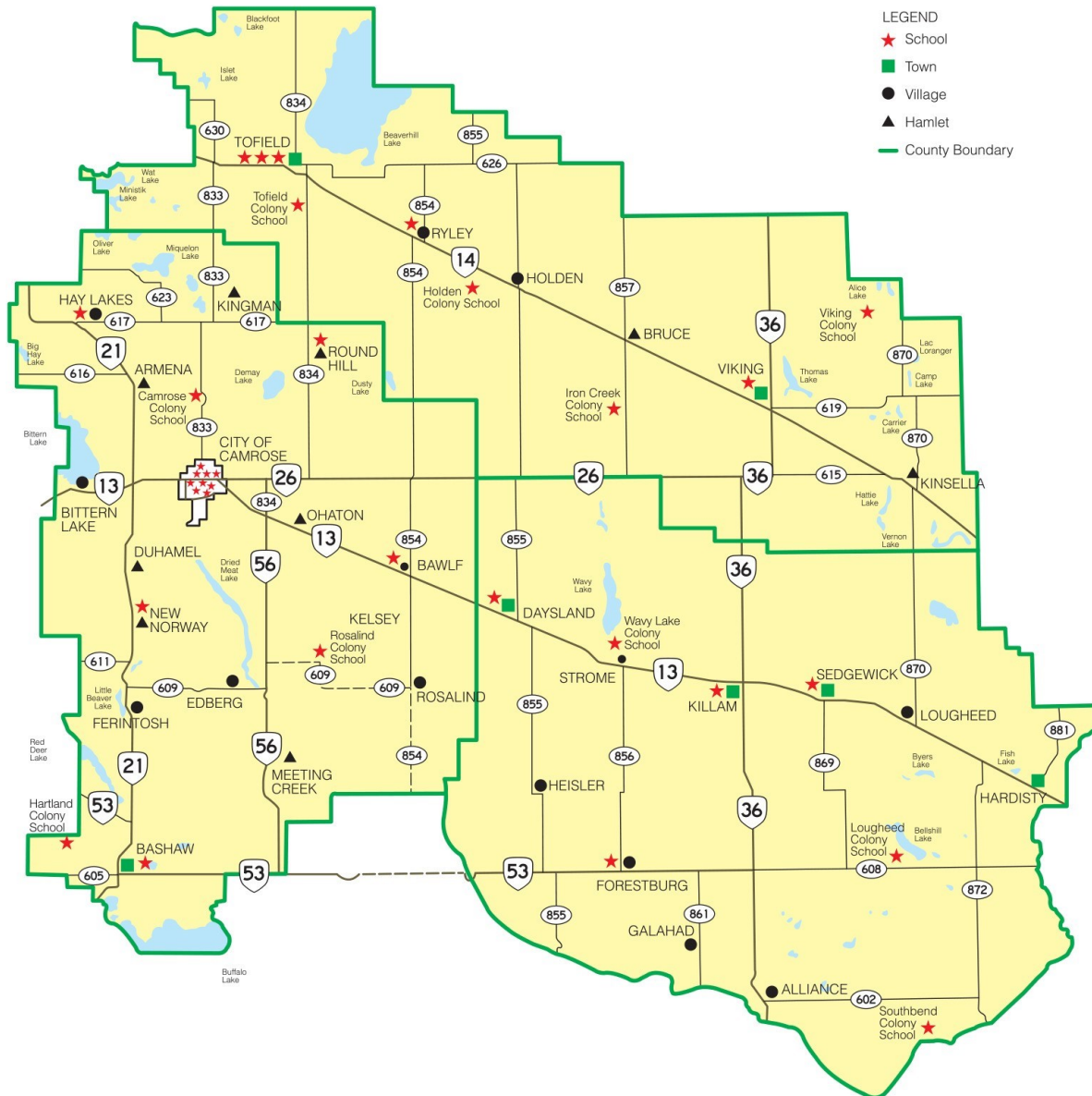
Our Mission

Battle River School Division, in collaboration with our communities, will support every student to be a lifelong learner and contributing member of society.

Our Beliefs

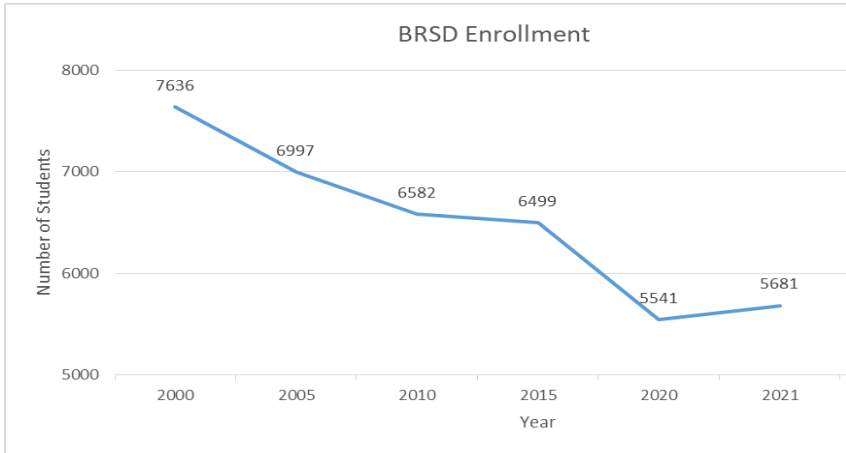
- Every child can learn.
- Our fundamental purpose is to promote student learning, growth and understanding.
- Everyone will be treated with dignity and respect in a safe and caring environment.
- Positive relationships build healthy, resilient students and staff.
- When a student is in need, we will provide support.
- We will support every student to the best of our ability every day.
- All staff must be skilled, committed and dedicated to their own continuous learning.
- Optimal learning occurs when it is engaging, meaningful and active.

Where We Came From



- Our school division was formed in 1995, at the same time many other school jurisdictions in Alberta were regionalized. Four different school authorities came together to form Battle River School Division, which was originally known as Battle River Regional Division #31. The authorities were:
 - * Beaver County
 - * Camrose County
 - * City of Camrose
 - * Flagstaff County
- The Board includes five elected Trustees — one from each of the Counties and two from the City of Camrose — who work collaboratively for the benefit of the entire Division.
- While many of the Board’s operating guidelines are derived from County boundaries in place at the time of regionalization, the Board works together to ensure student interests drive their decisions for

Challenges we face . . .



Historical Declines in Enrollment

- Funding is based on student enrollment. Lower numbers have meant:
 - Less funding for programs and staff;
 - Fewer dollars to cover busing;
 - Inadequate amounts to maintain school buildings.

Recovering from a Pandemic

- Two years of disruption have created learning issues for students, which need to be addressed. A focus on building literacy and numeracy skills is needed at all grade levels.
- Student mental health issues have increased.
- Many unknowns remain. Additional post-pandemic challenges may yet be identified.

Rising costs and aging buildings

- Fuel, utility and insurance costs are soaring, creating budget pressure.
- With many school buildings more than 50 years old, the school division faces significant infrastructure challenges and needs.

Ensuring equity and opportunities for all students

- Students deserve access to a quality education, that meets their needs, regardless of where they live or go to school.

By the numbers:

6/11

BRSD high schools serve **75 students or less in Grades 10 to 12.**

It's a challenge to: provide a full range of programs to small numbers of students in each grade.

75%

of our spending is on **PEOPLE.**

It's a challenge to: make changes without impacting jobs.

\$300,000

is a typical cost for a school roof repair.

It's a challenge to: cover that cost for schools.

4

is the number of BRSD Wellness Coaches who provide programs in support of student mental wellbeing.

It's a challenge to: serve all students' needs.

89

is the average number of minutes students spend on the school bus each day. *It's a challenge to: keep ride times reasonable.*

\$110,000

is a typical cost for a school bus purchase. *It's a challenge to: continually update the Division's fleet*

Looking ahead—what's next:



Our Goals:

1. Equity of programming
2. Increasing student enrollment
3. Engaging stakeholders

Our Areas of Focus:

Learning

Understand and support resource needs of schools to enhance programming and student wellbeing.

Equity

Understand and support focus on equity within Battle River School Division and the communities we serve.

Advocacy

Promote municipal government and provincial relations in support of public education.

Community Engagement

Engage with community members and agencies to further trust, respect, and understanding.

Our Ongoing Priorities

- *Ensure support for students, in all ways.*
- *Maintain buildings to support and enhance learning environments.*
- *Advocate through the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) and the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards (RCASB) for additional resources to address important concerns such as student mental health and rural sustainability.*
- *Exercise fiscal stewardship.*

Specific Priorities for 2021-2022

- Develop an understanding of the entire division.
- Proactively engage political counterparts (municipal and provincial) with relevant key messages about the Board's Strategic Plan and how we can work together.
- Engage with school councils through the Council of School Councils to relate key messages about the Board's Strategic Plan.
- Showcase what our Division offers. Proactively promote all growth.
- Support and be actively involved in the *Equity in Action* project.

Specific Priorities for 2022-2023

- Work with governments to secure potential collaboration on school sites / safety / rural sustainability and more.
- Engage with communities and other stakeholders, including hosting provincial election forums to promote educational priorities.
- Gather stakeholder input through surveys regarding attendance boundary review and possible reconfiguration, as well as other potential topics.

Looking ahead—what's next:

Specific Priorities for 2023-2024

- Develop priorities in response to input provided through survey questions, and address additional information and topics that arise.

Specific Priorities for 2024-2025

- Promote and build awareness for potential Trustees, in preparation for municipal election.
- Ensure current Board leaves a clear history and summary for the incoming Board.

How will we know we are getting there?

We recognize that achieving the vision of *Every Student, Every Day, A Success* is an ongoing process. Over the four-year term of 2021-2025, the BRSD Board of Trustees will know they are making progress toward this vision through the development of:

- increased equity for all students;
- increased enrollment in BRSD schools;
- positive community and stakeholder relationships.

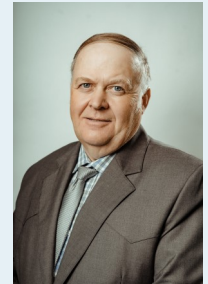


Meet the BRSD Board of Trustees



Karen Belich
Board Chair

Camrose County



Lyle Albrecht
Vice Chair

Beaver County



Doug Algar

City of Camrose



Dwight Dibben

Flagstaff County



Patrick McFeely

City of Camrose