



SEPT. 24, 2020 ■ VOLUME 2 ■ ISSUE 2

## Organizational Meeting

- At its Sept. 24, 2020, meeting, Rocky View Schools (RVS) Board of Trustees re-elected Fiona Gilbert to serve as Board Chair and elected Shali Baziuk to serve as Vice-Chair for the 2020/21 school year.
- The Board also approved the 2020/21 Committee Appointments and Representatives membership. Updated roles will be posted on [RVS' website](#) shortly.
- The Board thanked outgoing Vice-Chair Melyssa Bowen for her contributions as Vice-Chair for the 2019/20 school year.

## School Start Update

- The 2020/21 school year has had a positive start with RVS staff, students and families adapting to new in-class and online learning environments.
- RVS' first confirmed case of COVID-19 during staggered entry dates provided insights and lessons learned to improve protocol for notifying impacted families and the school community.
- The jurisdiction reviewed requests from students to change from in-class to online or vice-versa through to Sept. 17, 2020, and the majority were accommodated. Most online offerings are now full and RVS will not be able to accommodate additional requests until January 2021.
- RVS will continue to review and refine its COVID-19 related protocols, practices and tools based on new information and guidance from the Alberta government as well as feedback from schools. Since the start of school, [scenario plans 1 and 2](#) were updated and a new [Student Flowchart](#) was included to provide clarity on when students should stay home and when they are safe to return to school.
- Stakeholders can view up-to-date COVID-19 information for the 2020/21 school year on RVS' [website](#).

## Board Advocacy Priorities Updated

- As publicly elected officials, Trustees are advocates for public education and work to identify, address and seek resolution to educational issues while working with the government to continually improve Alberta's K – Gr. 12 system.
- The Board updated its advocacy priorities, which are now:
  - Space for Students
    - New Schools

- School Sites
- Modularity
- Funding for Students
  - Prioritize Public Education
  - Equitable Funding
- Support for Students
  - Student Health and Wellness
  - Local Decision Making

Board Advocacy Positions can be found on RVS' [website](#)

## **New Inclement Weather Policy Approved**

- Given the feedback RVS has received in previous years, the Board decided to review Board Policy 20 – Emergency Closure of Schools and School Programs at Off-Site Facilities. After careful consideration, it was approved to be replaced with the new Board Policy 20 – Inclement Weather with the following amendment: the decision to close one or more schools will be made by 5:30 a.m. by the Superintendent or designate after consultation with designated Principals and Trustees.
- The Board also directs the Superintendent to adjust associated administrative procedures (AP) to be in alignment with the new policy.
- The newly developed APs will steer the decision-making process and protocols for closure and cancellation decisions across RVS.

## **Joint Use Agreement Approved with Rocky View County**

- The Board approved a Joint Use Agreement with Rocky View County providing community access when the new middle/high school in Langdon opens in the fall of 2024.
- This decision is supported by the Board's policy, which makes school facilities available for leisure and recreational activities when such facilities are not required for school purposes.

## **Trustees Approve Twelve Policy Updates**

- To align with Alberta's *Education Act*, the guiding legislation for School Boards, the Board of Trustees updated legal references to the new *Education Act* sections in the following Board policies:
  - Policy 1 – Foundational Statements
  - Policy 10 – Policy Making
  - Policy 14 – Hearings of Teacher Transfers
  - Policy 15 – School Closures
  - Policy 16 – Recruitment and Selection of Personnel
  - Policy 17 – Student Transportation
  - Policy 18 – Alternative Programs
  - Policy 19 – Respectful Learning and Working Environments
  - Policy 21 – Resolution of Public Concerns
  - Policy 22 – Community Use of School Facilities and Equipment
  - Policy 23 – School Attendance Area
  - Policy 25 – Community Engagement