



JAN. 21, 2021 ■ VOLUME 2 ■ ISSUE 10

Mobile Mental Health Team Supports Students Across RVS

- RVS staff members Brooke Quayle, Kerri Woods and Crystal Dittrick presented an Exemplary Practice to the RVS Board of Trustees (the Board) showcasing the work of the Enhanced Supports for Mental Health (ESMH) mobile team.
- ESMH works collaboratively with RVS schools and families to support students with significant mental health and complex trauma concerns, using a holistic, strengths-based, student-centred approach to design a multi-tiered support plan. The team is flexible and responsive, and is accessed through a layered system of supports and services.
- ESMH provides the place and space for colleagues, staff and school teams to engage in deep and meaningful conversations about mental health, mental illness and trauma through consultation, coaching and collaboration.

Just as Many Students Move to In-Person as Will Move to Online Learning for Grades 1 – 8/9

- After choosing either in-person or RVS Online Learning for students at the start of the 2020/21 school year, families had the opportunity to change learning modes for the second half of the year.
- The selection process for Gr. 1-8, and students in Grade 9 at Chestermere Lake Middle, Indus, Langdon, W.G. Murdoch, Prince of Peace and Beiseker, concluded Jan. 15. Approximately 17,000 students in these grades had the opportunity to select their learning delivery mode, and RVS heard from just over one-half of the families. Most chose to stay with their current mode.
- With 371 students moving to in-person learning and 377 moving online, RVS anticipates the size of the Gr. 1-8/9 online population will remain almost identical to the first half of the year, with 2,250 students online. Students that are shifting will be reassigned in time to start their new learning mode on Feb. 8.
- Meanwhile, high school changeover is now fully timetabled and teachers have been assigned. RVS is in the process of finalizing the timetables in PowerSchool and getting everything ready for the high school switchover on Feb. 1.

School Playbook Development Continues

- School education plans were transformed into school playbooks in 2019/20. The collaborative process each school undertook in the creation of their playbooks provided the opportunity to incorporate parent, student and staff input and reflect local realities while creating alignment across RVS.
- School playbooks targeted priorities like student engagement, inclusion, instructional practices and making learning visible.
- Due to COVID-19, some components are adjusted for this cycle. Each school's workbook will be reviewed in early March and then posted on school website. The intention is to resume the full playbook cycle starting in March of 2021.

Operating Budget Adjustments for 2020/21 Approved by the Board

- RVS projects total revenues of \$290 million by Aug. 31, compared to budgeted revenues of \$281.4 million estimated in the spring. The main reason for this change is an increase of \$9.3 million in Federal Safe Return to Class funding for costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Other reasons include a decrease in fees revenue due to lower bus ridership and a slight reduction in expected options fees and school generated funds.
- Projected expenses have also increased compared to the spring budgeted totals, to \$295.3 million from \$282.6 million. The Federal Safe Return to Class funding has been fully allocated. Up to \$2 million for increased caretaking staff and supplies will be drawn down from reserves, depending on the utilization of Federal funds. Further, overall spending on staffing and supplies is anticipated to be \$2.15 million higher than the spring budget, with the majority of those increases occurring at the school level and being covered from school carry forward funding from last year.

Appeals and Hearings Policy Revised

- The Board approved new wording for Board Policy 13 – Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters.
- The intention of the new wording is not to change current practice, but to make clear the division's obligation and responsibility to students of the Board, which includes any individual who lives within the divisional boundary or is enrolled in an RVS school regardless of where they live.