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Story Workshop Inspires Student Writing

- Teachers Alison Humphrys, Carleen Pocklington and Kelsey Bagnall presented an Exemplary Practice to the Board of Trustees (the Board) highlighting their use of Story Workshop.
- Story Workshop is an approach to support literacy. It was developed at Opal School and began with a simple question: What is the connection between literacy and the arts?
- This approach is built upon the sharing of stories, immersion in the arts, time for play and a focus on meaning-making.

RVS Selects Charnelle Fulcher for Edwin Parr Award

- Each year, RVS proudly selects a first-year teacher to receive the RVS Edwin Parr Award sponsored by Alberta School Boards Association.
- This year's recipient is Charnelle Fulcher. Ms. Fulcher was originally hired to teach Grade 3 in East Lake School's English stream, only to be informed a week before the start of classes that she would instead be teaching a Grade 5/6 combined French Immersion class.
- Despite this change, Ms. Fulcher has excelled in her role, setting high expectations and providing support to students, giving them the opportunity to be the drivers in their educational journey. She also uses her strong collaboration and communication skills to involve parents and school community members as part of the learning process.
- RVS also acknowledges other first-year teachers who were nominated for RVS' Edwin Parr Award: Erin Quiring – Nose Creek Elementary School; Jillian Engler – W.G. Murdoch School; Laura McCaffrey – A.E. Bowers Elementary; and Tara Myden – Springbank Middle School.

Board Begins Process to Consider Prince of Peace Lutheran School's Future

- The Board voted to begin the school closure process for Prince of Peace. This is a necessary first step in determining the future of the school, as staying in the current building is not an option.
- In February, RVS was notified by the landlord of the Prince of Peace property that it was executing its right to terminate its lease with RVS, effective Aug. 5, 2022.

- RVS will send letters to the school's families and staff, as well as impacted municipalities and school jurisdictions, informing them the process has begun. Consultations will follow, and by May, the Board intends to make a final decision.

Bow Valley Addition Remains Top Capital Priority

- The Board approved its three-year capital plan which highlights the needs for additional student spaces across RVS to address enrolment growth.
- As one of Alberta's fastest-growing jurisdictions, it is critical that the government provide funding for new schools at a pace that meets the needs of RVS' increasing student population. RVS' three priority schools requested include an addition to Bow Valley High School, an Airdrie Kindergarten - Grade 8 school, and a Cochrane Kindergarten - Grade 5 school. RVS will submit its Capital Priorities list to Alberta Education by April 1.

Board Requests Meeting with Ministers

- After no new RVS Capital Projects were funded by Alberta Education in Budget 2021, the Board expressed their disappointment with the lack of new capital projects in RVS.
- The Board directed the Board Chair to request a meeting with the Ministers of Education and Infrastructure to share its disappointment with the lack of capital infrastructure funding for RVS and highlight the new three-year capital plan.

Trustees Approve 2021/22 Budget Priorities

- In preparation for the 2021/22 school year, the Board approved its budget priorities. Budget principles and priorities are established each year at the outset of the annual budget process.
- RVS' annual budget is driven by the goals and strategies of its Four-Year Plan and RVS' operational needs. A focus will remain on efficient and effective services while building on innovations over the past year.
- Priorities for the next school year include pandemic recovery and growth opportunities; student success through targeted funding to face-to-face and online classrooms; school-based supports for students with complex needs; mental health and wellness supports; and literacy and numeracy skill development.