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## French Immersion Teachers Partner with Faculty St. Jean for Research

- A group from Rocky View School's (RVS) French Immersion offerings presented an exemplary practice to the Board of Trustees (the Board) highlighting an action-research project undertaken in partnership with the University of Alberta's Faculty St. Jean.
- The 18-month project intends to build knowledge and understanding of how to meet the needs of all learners in a French Immersion online setting. The findings will be used to leverage technology and better meet the needs of all students, regardless of programs in schools or online.
- This project aligns with Goal 2 of RVS' Four-Year Plan – Achieving the student's potential. French Immersion teachers have been exploring ways to design instruction that lines up with student's personal learning styles and capabilities.

## Revised Foundation Statements Reflect RVS Four-Year Plan

- The Board Policy 1 – Foundation Statements, last updated in 2008, was recently revised and approved by the Board. The refreshed policy lays out updated vision, purpose and values that more closely reflect the in-depth feedback received from stakeholders as part of RVS' 2019-2023 Four-Year Plan consultation and the input that continues to be received as the plan is implemented across RVS.
- Recognizing the need to better align the Foundation Statements with the goals and outcomes of the current Four-Year Plan, the Board and Senior Executive were led through facilitated sessions over the past 3 months to update the Foundation Statements.
- The updated vision states, "Rocky View Schools is a world-class learning organization where all students achieve their absolute best." The purpose of the organization is stated as "connect with all students to ensure that everyone learns, belongs and succeeds." The policy highlights values focused in four areas: learning, people, community and innovation.

## Board Receives Funding Profile from Alberta Government

- On March 31, the Alberta government released funding profiles for school divisions in the province. RVS anticipates receiving grants from Alberta Education in the amount of \$239.8 million for the 2021/22 school year. For comparison, RVS received \$238.5 million in 2020/21.

- When Budget 2021 was released in February, Alberta Education stated no school division would receive less funding than they did in 2020/21. This was important because RVS had less students enrolled compared to projections for this year and, per the existing funding formula, could have faced a claw back of funding in subsequent years.
- Alberta Education highlighted that RVS should receive nearly \$7.2 million less if the funding formula was followed. RVS appreciates that the government is not withholding funds as a result of enrolment fluctuations caused by COVID-19.
- Administration continues to work with the Board's Budget Committee to develop a 2021/22 budget proposal. This will be considered by the Board before the end of May.

## **Board to Advocate to Minister of Health to Prioritize School Staff for Vaccinations and for Increased Accountability for Decisions**

- The Board passed a motion to write the Minister of Health asking for increased accountability, assurance and transparency of recent decisions and their effect on the student mental health and wellbeing.
- Another motion to write a letter advocating that school staff be prioritized in provincial vaccination efforts was also approved by the Board.