



SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Using Gamification to Engage Elementary Students

- Sarah Thompson School Teachers Geeta Behal, Kristie Mackie, and Sarah McLeod presented to the Board of Trustees (the Board) on their use of gamification to make the social studies curriculum more engaging for Grade 2-3 students.
- The teachers created a game, *Survive and Thrive*, which engages students through roleplaying. Through the game, students are presented with “situations” and “encounters” connected to the curriculum that they must solve.
- This creative approach is used to deliver key concepts, which are taught in a way that allows students to enhance essential character skills and transfer their knowledge through the gaming experience and apply their learning to real-life situations.

RVS Enrolment on Track to Surpass Projections

- The Board received a preliminary enrolment update showing that RVS student population grew by 5.4 per cent compared to 2020/21, as of Sept. 23. Enrolment fluctuates regularly with students entering and exiting RVS for a variety of reasons, and that number will likely change before final enrolment is determined Sept. 30.
- As of Sept. 23, 26,653 students were enrolled in RVS – 158 more than originally projected for this school year.
- A key driver of growth is several Grade 1 students who are attending school for the first time after not attending Kindergarten due to the pandemic. Other growth is the result of general community population increases.

Trustees Approve 2022/23 CMR Project List

- The Board affirmed a list of Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) projects prepared and submitted by RVS to Alberta Education.
- At the top of RVS’ CMR list are mechanical upgrades and Career and Technology Studies modernization at George McDougall High School, which, at approximately \$3 million, will use all the division’s CMR allocation. If approved by government, the other projects identified on the list will be added to a future Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) or CMR list.

Board to Advocate for Diploma Exams to Remain Optional for 2021/22

- The Board unanimously voted to send a letter to Alberta's Minister of Education requesting Diploma exams remain optional this school year. Given the ongoing COVID-19 situation in Alberta and the disruption it causes to the school year, the Board feels mandatory Diploma exams will put students at a disadvantage.