



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RVS EDUCATION CENTRE
2651 CHINOOK WINDS DR. SW

AIRDRIE, AB

DECEMBER 9, 2021

10:00 a.m. Regular Board Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. In Camera Meeting
4. Motions Arising from In Camera
5. Approval of Minutes
 - a) Regular Board Meeting – November 25, 2021
6. Superintendent's Report
7. Chair's Report/Correspondence
8. Committee Reports
 - a) School Councils
 - b) Planning
9. Trustee Reports
10. New Business
 - a) Appointment to School Councils Committee
11. In Camera Meeting
12. Motions Arising from In Camera
13. Adjournment

This unofficial agenda is subject to change and is not *official* until approved at the Board meeting.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DECEMBER 9, 2021

AGENDA

1. Update on Draft K-6 Curriculum Engagement in RVS
2. Administrative Procedures Update

ACTION

Information

Information

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Luterbach", with a small star-like mark above the letter 'i'.

Greg Luterbach
Superintendent of Schools

INFORMATION ITEM



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Item: Update on Draft K-6 Curriculum Engagement in RVS

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2021

Background:

On March 30, 2021, the Government of Alberta released the draft K-6 Curriculum. Rather than subject by subject, the entire K-6 curriculum is being revised all at once both in English and French. Within hours of the draft curriculum being released, concerns started to be expressed on social media, traditional media, by the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA), and others.

The release of the draft K-6 curriculum has mobilized many parents. Online groups, post-secondary analysis, ATA analysis, special interest group reviews, social media postings and some school division analyses have identified and shared general and specific concerns with the content in the draft curriculum. This has spurred many individuals to send letters and emails to trustees, administration, and government.

On April 13, 2021, RVS announced that we would not be participating in piloting the draft curriculum in the 2021/22 school year. We did say that we would provide feedback to government on the drafts without participating in the pilot. Only a handful of schools across the province are actually piloting the draft curriculum this fall.

Originally, government commented that only jurisdictions that were piloting the draft curriculum could provide feedback on the draft. This was later adjusted to allow anyone to provide feedback on the drafts. Government released their own survey and held one or two online feedback sessions per month. Alberta Education provided a number of grants to organizations to gather feedback to the drafts and provide that to government by early January 2022.

In mid-November, Alberta School Boards Association passed a position statement requesting government release a second draft in the spring of 2022 and provide two years for piloting, field testing and review.

Current Status:

RVS launched a series of parent and teacher feedback online sessions in November 2021. Two parent events were held (Nov 8 and 17) where we provided opportunity for parents to share feedback on the draft curriculum via three guiding questions:

1. What do you want to see in the Kindergarten – Grade 6 curriculum?
2. What skills do you feel RVS students should have by Grade 6? By graduation?
3. Do you have any overall comments/feedback about the new draft Kindergarten – Grade 6 curriculum that government should hear?

INFORMATION ITEM



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Between the two sessions we had approximately 35 parents attend and provide feedback. We heard concerns about a fact driven curriculum; lack of problem solving, collaboration, critical thinking in the drafts; superficial Indigenous content; serious concerns about countless topics over numerous subject areas and their age appropriateness; the draft being a step backwards rather than moving the province forward; physical education and wellness curriculum that will result in damage to kids; and so much more. At times the sessions were emotional. Some parents said they are considering leaving the province if the curriculum is implemented as written. Very few positives were mentioned overall. Parents that we heard from were glad RVS did not pilot the drafts and expect government to make significant revisions. Feedback gathered on the parents evenings will be shared on the RVS website prior to the winter break.

Four teacher sessions were also held in November, and the questions were more targeted given the audience. Teacher turnout was quite low – five to ten attendees per session, with numerous teachers attending multiple evening sessions. Each evening focused on different subject areas (e.g., one night on English Language Arts, a different night on Social Studies) but often individuals commented on multiple subject areas. The teachers in attendance were very upset and completely unsupportive of the draft curriculum. Significant concerns were highlighted on age appropriateness; volume of outcomes that will need to be addressed; Eurocentric nature of the draft; lack on meaningful Indigenous content; lack of resources available to support the proposed curriculum; focus on factoids rather than process; deemphasis of competencies; countless examples of specific errors in the drafts; inclusion of select religious topics; harm caused to students and staff by many social studies topics; fear of what will be asked of K-6 teachers; lack of time and support with implementation; inability to implement while much of daily school life is negatively impacted by the pandemic; feeling that many topics are beyond their current knowledge. Teachers in attendance wanted to delay and/or phase its implementation after significant changes are made to reflect what is being said across the province. Feedback gathered on the teacher evenings will be shared on the RVS website prior to the winter break.

The feedback gathered from the six sessions has been shared with Alberta Education.

Thanks to the learning specialists, select school administrators, Sharon Cronin, and Lori Meyer for organizing, facilitating, and recording for the six evening events.

Recommendation:

The Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the Update on Draft K-6 Curriculum Engagements in RVS as presented.



INFORMATION ITEM

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Item: Administrative Procedures Update

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2021

Current Status:

The following changes have been made to existing administrative procedures since June 2021:

AP131 – Inclement Weather Emergency School Closure / AP132 – School Closures (deleted)

Updated in accordance with changes made to school closure processes. AP132 and AP131 have been combined to form one Administrative Procedure that addresses school closures, including those for inclement weather.

AP152 – Dispute Resolution

Updated to clarify that this mechanism applies to school councils as per Education Act (s55, 8). Also clarified that appeal to the Board are for students of the Board only.

AP173 – COVID-Hazard Reduction

New administrative procedure to bring RVS in alignment with the Government of Alberta's request of school systems. RVS will require proof of COVID-19 immunization or a negative rapid COVID-19 test result for all adults entering our schools or facilities. As a public school division with a responsibility for 26,500+ students in our care and as an employer of 3,000+ staff, this is necessary as we continue to do our part to keep our students safe and in school, and to protect our staff.

AP205 – Teaching About Controversial Issues

Updated to reflect Section 58 of the Education Act. Teachers are to be aware a specific process must be followed if they are planning instruction that primarily and explicitly includes religion or human sexuality, and a letter must be sent to parents. This administrative procedure does not discourage the teaching of controversial topics; rather, it supports a process to ensure that all parties are well-informed about the plans to address the topic.

AP222 – Facilitating Successful Transitions to Rocky View Schools' Learning Centres

Updated to reflect the current process for students to access the services of any of the Community Learning Centres.

AP305 – School Attendance Areas

AP updated to clarify that non-resident students cannot appeal to the Board (as per BP13) unless they are currently a student in RVS.

AP5014 – Community Use of Outdoor Spaces

Updates to the Administrative Procedures and Forms reflect the approval of an insurance fee for all bookings by the Board of Trustees in May 2021. Additional changes include clarifying the processes and procedures based on the centralization of the booking process.



INFORMATION ITEM

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

AP5025 – Community Use of Facilities and Equipment

Updates to the Administrative Procedures and Forms reflect the approval of an insurance fee for all bookings by the Board of Trustees in May 2021. Additional changes include clarifying the processes and procedures based on the centralization of the booking process.

AP5224 – Purchasing Card (PCard) Program

AP has been updated to reflect changes to expectations regarding what can and can not be purchased on a PCard. Clarity was added to try and reflect current procedural requirements for entry and timelines. The references have also been updated.

Recommendation:

The Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the Administrative Procedures Update as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORT



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SCHOOL COUNCILS COMMITTEE

Date: December 9th, 2021

Committee Members:

Melyssa Bowen (Committee Chair)
Shelley Kinley
Norma Lang

Key Meeting Points:

The Board of Trustees hosted the Fall Joint Board School Council Meeting on November 25th, 2021 via Zoom. 70 individuals from across the Division registered to attend the meeting to hear an update from administration, an update from the Board of Trustees, details about the ASCE Grant and to engage in break out room discussions and presentations on four topics of interest. Slides from the meeting have been uploaded to the website and a letter thanking attendees for participating was sent out on behalf of the Board.

Future Considerations:

The School Councils Committee is looking forward to hearing feedback from attendees and reflecting on what was most valuable, engaging and helpful at the Fall Joint Board School Council Meeting.

Committee Recommendation(s):

The School Councils Committee will reflect on the experience and feedback shared when planning for the Spring Joint Board School Council Meeting.



COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE BOARD PLANNING COMMITTEE

Report Date: December 9, 2021

Committee Members Present:

All Trustees (excluding Trustee Brand)
Greg Luterbach, Superintendent
Larry Paul, Associate Superintendent Business & Ops
Tara de Weerd, Director of Communications
Stephanie Dove, Recording Secretary

Meeting Date: November 25, 2021

Key Meeting Points:

- Received report from the Audit Committee highlighting result and outcomes of 2020/2021 Audit process and meeting with auditors (PWC)
- Reviewed draft 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 school year calendars
- Received overview of draft K-6 curriculum feedback received during parent and staff focus groups

Committee Recommendation(s):

- That administration circulates the draft 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 school year calendar to all stakeholders for feedback
- That the draft K-6 curriculum feedback received from parents and staff be shared publicly at an upcoming Board meeting and posted on the divisional website once finalized



DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: SCHOOL COUNCILS COMMITTEE

Item: Appointment of Committee Member

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2021

Background:

The Board delegates specific powers and duties to committees of the Board that are established by the Board, subject to the restrictions on delegation in the Education Act. Committee membership is identified at the annual Organizational Meeting and updated throughout the year by Board motion at a special or regular Board meeting.

The School Councils Committee is a standing committee of the Board and the Terms of Reference for this committee identifies the membership to be 4 trustees.

Current Status:

At the October 28, 2021, Organizational Meeting, the Board appointed trustees to various committees for the 2021/2022 year. At that time, Vice Chair Lang, Trustee Bowen, and Trustee Kinley were appointed to the School Councils Committee leaving one vacant spot on the committee.

To complete the roster and support the work of the committee, Chair Gilbert has offered to sit on the committee for the 2021/2022 term.

Alternatives:

Alternative I

The Board of Trustees appoints Chair Gilbert to serve as a member of the School Councils Committee for the 2021/2022 term.

Alternative II

The Board of Trustees appoints _____ to serve as a member of the School Councils Committee for the 2021/2022 term.

Alternative III

The Board of Trustees refers the matter to the Planning Committee for further discussion.

Recommendation:

The Board of Trustees appoints Chair Gilbert to serve as a member of the School Councils Committee for the 2021/2022 term.