

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Nov. 3, 2022

Student Showcase: Board Recognizes Students for Achieving 100 Per Cent Diploma Marks

- Twice a year, the Rocky View Schools (RVS) Board of Trustees recognizes students who obtain a perfect mark of 100 per cent on a provincial diploma exam. Due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is the first recognition of these student accomplishments since 2020.
- The following students were recognized by trustees for obtaining 100 per cent during the June 2022 exam sitting:
 - Keisha Basi from Cochrane High School earned 100 per cent in Biology 30
 - Kai Suzuki from Airdrie's Bert Church High School earned 100 per cent in both Physics 30 and Biology 30
- The Board congratulates Keisha and Kai on their accomplishments and wishes them great success in their journey beyond high school.

Board Requests 32 Urgently Needed Modulars from Alberta Education

- The need for more space for students in RVS is urgent as enrolment continues to climb adding 1,294 more students in RVS schools this year. The current overall utilization rate in RVS is 91 per cent - up four per cent from last year - and is expected to continue to rise to 101 per cent by 2026 if no new schools or modular units are approved by the provincial government.
- In addition to the new schools in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere requested of the government, RVS is requesting 32 modular classrooms as part of Alberta Education's Annual Modular Classroom Program.
- To determine the number of modulars needed, RVS administration performs a thorough review of division-wide space needs and how these can be met by modular classrooms in some schools. The requested modular units would reduce the utilization rate at each school from what is projected for the 2023/24 school year, which in all cases will significantly exceed 100 per cent without the addition of these units.
- RVS typically receives a letter regarding the status of the request within four months of submission.
- The division had no other option last year but to spend its own reserve funds to relocate 10 existing RVS modular classrooms after it was denied twice by Alberta Education – first for funding to add 18 new modulars and second to fund the relocation costs of 10 current RVS modulars as a necessary temporary step to address more critical space needs in some RVS schools.
- Trustees are requesting an additional 32 modular units from Alberta Education. This request, along with a request to relocate two washroom units, will be immediately submitted to the government for consideration.
- If approved, these modular units will help mitigate RVS' enrolment issue in the short term but will also increase the stress on core school buildings which will have more students than they were built to accommodate.

Renovation of the School on Powell Street in Cochrane to Proceed

- RVS re-acquired the school building and associated land located at 129 Powell Street in Cochrane at the end of September. Since 1993, the Calgary Catholic School Division had operated the Holy Spirit School at this location.
- The building has a current capacity for 332 students, with space for an additional 150 if six modular units were to be added to the facility. Utilizing this building for RVS students would help to alleviate pressure in some other schools, as utilization rates in Cochrane are very high at 97 per cent.
- Trustees approved spending capital reserve funds to make upgrades to the building to ensure it will meet the needs of the school community. The estimated cost of these upgrades is \$2.8 million. If work begins immediately, the school will be open to receive students in September 2023.
- The Board also approved directing the superintendent to proceed with a student accommodation consultation and bring forward recommendations in the spring of 2023 for accommodating students in the facility.

Changes Made to Board Committee Terms of Reference

- Trustees approved several minor changes to the Terms of Reference for some of the Board committees which further refined the roles, scope and responsibilities of these committees and committee members.
- Terms of References drive the work of various Board committees and are posted online at https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/about_rvs/board_of_trustees/board_committees