

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

23 March 2023

Trustees Hear from Stakeholder Delegations Regarding School on Powell Street

- Rocky View Schools (RVS) has conducted stakeholder engagement to help determine which students will attend the school on Powell Street in Cochrane. The re-acquired RVS school currently has space for 330 students. To date, two public meetings and two online surveys have collected important feedback.
- As part of the ongoing engagement, interested parties were invited to make a presentation to the Board. Four stakeholder delegations attended the March 23 Board meeting to present information either in support of or against the various accommodation scenarios being considered for the school.
- Trustees will review all feedback received through the various engagement opportunities and consider the accommodation plan for the school at its public Board meeting scheduled for April 27 (subject to change). Stakeholders will be notified of a decision following the public meeting.
- Once it has been determined who will attend the school and the grade/program configuration, the Board will give the facility a new name.

Board Approves 2024 – 2027 Capital Plan

- School boards are required to submit their list of capital project requests to Alberta Education by April 1 each year. Government reviews these submissions and announces the projects it will fund in March of the following year, in conjunction with the release of the provincial budget.
- RVS’ need for additional, permanent spaces for students is urgent and the Board will continue to advocate on the behalf of RVS students. With approximately 1,000 students joining RVS each year, there is a need for one to two new schools annually; however, no new RVS schools have received approval to proceed with construction since 2019.
- Seven priority projects are requested for construction approval in 2024:

Priority	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Approved in 2023 Capital Plan	2024 Request
1	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	Design	New Construction
2	Airdrie High School	1,500	Airdrie	Planning	New Construction
3	Cochrane K – 8	900	Cochrane	Pre-planning	New Construction
4	Chestermere K – 9	900	Chestermere	Pre-planning	New Construction
Priority	Capital Project	Build Out Capacity	Community	Type of Project	Site Readiness Expected
2024 BUDGET YEAR					
5	Airdrie K – 8	900	Airdrie	New Construction	Ready
6	Springbank K – 8	900	Harmony	New Construction	Ready
7	Cochrane High School	1,500	Cochrane	New Construction	2024

- RVS has a total of 15 projects on its priority list, including the four projects recently given design, planning and pre-planning approval by the government.

Board Chair Provides Update and Response to Minister's Letter

- Board of Trustees Chair, Norma Lang provided an update regarding recent letters addressed to RVS parents and to the Board, received from Education Minister, Adriana LaGrange, March 10.
- Chair Lang shared the following statement: The division is well prepared to move through the new process as quickly as it will allow, with two sites construction ready now and two more expected this year. We are also very hopeful for positive news soon on the 32 modular classrooms we requested from the government. This will help as a temporary measure for the upcoming school year.

Locally Developed Course Approval

- Trustees authorized the use of several Locally Developed Courses (LDC) for 2023-27. LDCs are developed, acquired and authorized by school authorities to provide students with unique opportunities to explore a range of interests in subject areas that complement provincial programs of study. The LDCs approved for renewal include courses in acting and performing, yoga, creative writing and specialized English Language Learner courses.
- Also approved were the addition of two new LDCs for 2023-25, in Leadership, Character and Social Responsibility, and Literature and Composition.

Alternative Programs Policy Updated

- Changes recommended by the Policy Committee to Board Policy 18 – Alternative Programs were approved by trustees. Specifically, Policy 18 will be renamed Divisional Programs of Choice to better represent the variety of programs of choice offered by RVS.
- Divisional programs of choice include but are not limited to, a particular language, religion, culture, the arts, athletics and specialized subject matters. They provide for multiple points of engagement of learners, while also ensuring strong learning opportunities for student success while addressing the curriculum.
- The policy does not limit the possibility for schools to create innovative offerings for the students within their attendance area.

Board Asks Superintendent for Information Related to Optional Course Fees

- The board approved a request of the superintendent to prepare a feasibility report (options and potential approaches) for eliminating all school fees for optional courses for the 2023-24 school year.
- The report will be shared with the Board Budget Committee at its meeting on April 20, 2023. This is prior to the board making decisions related to school fees and the budget in May.