

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

April 6, 2023

Building Futures Program Celebrates 10 Years in Partnership with McKee Homes in Airdrie

- Students from Building Futures shared their experiences during the program's 10th anniversary year in Airdrie with trustees.
- Building Futures is an academic program for Grade 10 students offered in partnership with McKee Homes, a home building company in Airdrie.
- During the year, students learn core courses while also being exposed to all the trades associated with residential home building through hands-on experience. Over the course of the year, students work together and with McKee Homes staff and contractors to help construct a house in Airdrie. Students learn more about the trades and possible career paths from guest speakers, contractors and other experiences offered through the program.
- The students highlighted how the program had given them so much more than just an education in the trades; it had provided them with interpersonal skills that will help them as they move forward in their lives.
- Building Futures gives students the opportunity to engage in real-world, hands-on learning experiences that matter to them – one of the outcomes of Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Four-Year Plan.

RVS Receives Approval for 10 New Modular Units

- The Board was notified April 3 of the Alberta Education decision to approve 10 new modular units for the division and funding to relocate two existing modulars within RVS.
- A total of nine new classroom units and one washroom unit were approved. These units are fully funded by the government as are reasonable costs to deliver and install the units at their ultimate destinations.
- Delivery and installation have not been confirmed.
- These new units will help alleviate some of the overcrowding at schools in these communities; however, they are not a long-term solution and do not meet all space needs for the upcoming school year. The Board will continue to advocate for construction funding for the seven new schools on its capital plan priority list.

New Jr./Sr. High School in Langdon Grade Configurations and Boundaries Consultation

- Construction of a new Jr./Sr. high school in Langdon is well underway. The grade structure and attendance boundaries for the school are still to be determined and the Board has approved proceeding with a stakeholder consultation.
- RVS is looking forward to the opening of the doors in September 2024 as this will allow students residing in Langdon and surrounding areas to attend a school in their area and will relieve some space pressures at Chestermere High School.

- The consultation will take place between May 2 and May 25 with opportunities to provide feedback in-person on May 2 at Langdon School and online through RVSEngage.com. The Board is intending to make a decision at its June 15 meeting.
- Details regarding the consultation will be sent to impacted families and will also be available on the division's engagement website, RVSEngage.com.

Trustees Support Enhanced Safety Protocols in Schools

- RVS takes school safety very seriously. The division's safety protocols are governed by Administrative Procedure 169 Trespassing and Loitering in Schools (AP 169) which states the Division has a moral and legal responsibility to develop procedures whereby schools are operated in a safe manner for students and staff.
- Administration was asked by the Board Planning Committee to investigate what other school divisions have implemented regarding keeping school doors always locked, and the technology that would be required to implement something similar in RVS schools. This information was provided to trustees at the April 6 meeting.
 - Many Alberta school divisions – including the large divisions in Calgary, Edmonton and Red Deer – have all external doors locked at the elementary and middle school levels. In high schools, the front door is left unlocked, but all other external doors are locked.
 - Locking RVS school doors would require the installation of cameras and other technology at a cost of approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 per school.
 - Locked doors can create a sense of safety for staff, students and parents as it restricts access to the school, but it is not a fail-safe system. Reports indicate most school violence events are committed by a student or someone associated with the school.
- Trustees approved enhancing the administrative procedures to further support student safety efforts including, where practical, requiring all school doors that do not direct individuals through the school office, to be locked during the school day for elementary, middle and multi-level schools and all doors except the front doors be locked during the school day for high schools. A plan to utilize technology to remotely monitor and unlock the front doors for all elementary, middle and multi-level schools will also be developed and implemented.