

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

June 1, 2023

Lifelong Learners Recognized for Academic Achievement

- The RVS Board (the Board) extended its congratulations to 34 RVS staff members who have shown their commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth by celebrating their achievements during the Board meeting.
- Rocky View Schools (RVS) values lifelong learning through ongoing post-secondary education and professional certification.
- Also recognized were RVS' nominees for the Edwin Parr Award, given annually to a first-year teacher by the Alberta School Board Association. Brandy Perry was selected to represent the jurisdiction for Zone 5 and Taylor Thompson was also nominated within RVS.

2023/24 Operating Budget Focuses Resources on Ensuring Classroom Success

- The Board approved the 2023/24 operating budget providing funding, supports and resources directly to schools where they can have the greatest positive impact on student learning.
- This budget reflects what the Board heard from families, staff and students was important to focus on to provide students with an education and school experience that supports them in achieving their absolute best. This input shaped the 2022 – 2026 RVS Strategic Plan and guided the budget priorities:
 - Improving our students' learning
 - Strengthening our workforce
 - Bolstering our infrastructure
 - Connecting with our community
- The total operating budget is \$318.2 million with 92 per cent of total instructional funding from the provincial government going directly to schools. Funds will staff schools and classrooms, pay for school-based supplies and be allocated to teaching and resource supports in areas such as numeracy and literacy, inclusion, new curriculum implementation, English as an Additional Language, Indigenous knowledge-building, and mental health and wellness for students and staff.
- Schools will have greater access to literacy and numeracy supports and to English as an Additional Language and Indigenous programming, as well as supports and resources for classrooms with complex needs.
- RVS will hire 49 additional full-time equivalent teachers to support the nearly 1,100 new students RVS will welcome in September. This reflects a 3.8 per cent increase in student enrolment expected for 2023/24. The government uses a weighted moving average to provide instructional funding to schools, which negatively impacts growing divisions. This means RVS needs to educate 801 new students that will not be funded by the government. To ensure all RVS students receive the quality education they deserve, the Board will allocate \$1 million from its reserves to support these new students.

- The current utilization rates of RVS schools and rising utility and insurance costs put added pressure on Operation and Maintenance (OM) funding needs. The five per cent increase in funding from the government in OM is not reflective of the current challenges within RVS and the operations and maintenance needs of our buildings. With more than half of RVS schools overutilized (85 per cent +), RVS receives less OM funding to support our student population than we would if the division had all the additional schools required and were at 80-85 per cent utilized. This is estimated at \$2 million in funding lost.
- The budget, as well as the 2023-2027 Education Plan, is available on the RVS [website](#).

Public Engagement for New Langdon Junior/Senior High School Extended to Gather Additional Feedback

- On May 2, RVS launched a stakeholder engagement collecting input into the proposed accommodation plan and grade configurations for the new junior/senior high school in Langdon, set to open its doors in September 2024. The consultation began with an in-person public meeting at Langdon School which drew more than 100 people and the opportunity to provide feedback through [RVSEngage.com](#). Delegations were also invited to present their thoughts and ideas to the Board on May 25.
- Administration reviewed the input received through the engagement and requested the Board extend the consultation into the fall to have time to investigate some of the alternatives suggested by stakeholders. Engagement plans and a timeline will be presented to the Board Planning Committee in early September. This information will be communicated to families and updated on [RVSEngage.com](#).