

# THE BRIEF

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Nov. 30, 2023

### Nose Creek Elementary School Highlights Inclusivity Practices

- Staff at Nose Creek Elementary School (NCES) believe inclusion must be consistently pursued to honour students in their care. During a presentation to the Board (the Board) of Rocky View Schools (RVS), NCES staff members shared how they bring Alberta Education's six principles of inclusive learning - diversity, high expectations, learners' strengths, removing barriers, building capacity and collaboration - to life every day in their classrooms.
- The presentation highlighted how the school evolved to one in which students, teachers and staff have a better understanding of inclusivity. The teaching staff worked hard to ensure programs and activities involved all students, while injecting fun into the learning. Students also learned the importance of working collaboratively on things like recycling and reading. Some students became inclusion superheroes, helping to create a welcoming school environment.
- This work aligns with Goal 3 of RVS' Education Plan – Creating inclusive, engaging, healthy learning opportunities for all students.

### Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal Spending Projects Approved for 2023/24

- As part of its annual fiscal process, RVS administration brings Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) spending for the coming year to the Board for their approval.
- In March of 2023, RVS was granted \$2,795,116 in the provincial budget for IMR for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Highlights of upcoming projects include:
  - Student washroom/change room upgrades for Glenbow School in Cochrane
  - Electrical/fire panel upgrades at schools in Cochrane and Bearspaw
  - Painting and flooring repairs/upgrades throughout the division
  - Ceiling/LED lighting upgrades at schools in Langdon, Airdrie and Bearspaw
  - School front door security enhancements for 27 schools

### 2022/23 Audited Annual Financial Statements Approved

- Each year, school divisions in Alberta are required to send annual financial statements, the auditor's report and any other communication pieces to the Minister of Education by Nov. 30.
- External auditors provided RVS a clean audit report. Congratulations to all staff who have a hand in preparing the documents and supporting the audit process.
- RVS has made strategic investments over the past few years to spend down operating reserves to get within government's mandated range.

- The final results for the 2022/23 year included revenues of \$298.3 million and expenses of \$307.6 million resulting in a deficit of \$9.4 Million. RVS planned to draw \$7.9 million from reserves in 2022/23 but ended up drawing \$9.4 million. The additional draw resulted from increased teacher sick / medical appointment leaves, increased furniture and equipment spending, land acquisition on the Powell Street school site, and 21/22 projects that extended into the 22/23 school year.
- At the end of the 2022/23 year, RVS' operating reserves were at \$3.9 million (1.3% of operating budget). This is at the lower end of government's required operating reserve range (between 1 and 3.2%). Almost all those funds are in our transportation reserve which cannot be used for other needs across the division.
- Nearly all of the \$3.8 million of capital reserves were used on the renovation of the school on Powell Street in Cochrane (now Cochrane Christian Academy) and preparing the new high school site in south-west Airdrie.

### **School Fees Policy Enhanced**

- Changes to the School Fees Policy intend to clarify the purpose of fees ensuring they continue to be reasonable for families and support students in achieving learning outcomes. Additional changes were made to provide further clarity and improve transparency as well as minor edits and updates.

### **Joint Use and Planning Agreement Negotiations with Rocky View County to Continue**

- The Board will continue to negotiate with Rocky View County regarding a joint use agreement after the Board approved a motion to maintain those discussions.

### **Board Continues to Engage Government in Advocacy Efforts for More Space for Students**

- Trustee Fred Burley will represent RVS at the City of Airdrie's event in Edmonton Dec. 5 where Mayor Brown will host Cabinet Ministers and MLAs to share information and engage in dialogue about Airdrie.
- The Board will tour MLA for Banff-Kananaskis, Sarah Elmeligi, through Springbank Middle School Dec. 8.
- The Board received correspondence from the Honourable Minister of Infrastructure Pete Guthrie and MLA for Airdrie-Cochrane in response to RVS' invitation to tour an Airdrie high school and discuss the need for space for students. Minister Guthrie expressed interest in the meeting and to connect in January.

### **RVS Participates in Alberta School Boards Association Fall General Meeting**

- Members of the Board attended the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Fall General Meeting in Edmonton from Nov 19-21, at which joint advocacy with school boards from across the province was the focus.
- RVS' resolution to ask the provincial government to review the practice of administering Diploma Exams was passed by the membership. Trustee Shali Baziuk was re-elected as Vice-President of the ASBA to serve another two-year term