

2023 – 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN SUMMARY

Last May, along with our annual Education Plan survey, we asked for your feedback to help the Board of Trustees develop a Strategic Plan to guide the division's focus over the next four years. Students, parents/guardians, staff and the community were asked three open-ended questions designed to understand your hopes for children's education and school experience and what RVS should focus on. We received over 27,920 responses to help inform a first draft of the 2023 – 2026 RVS Strategic Plan. The Board of Trustees met in August with senior administration to review the feedback provided and draft a preliminary strategic plan. The draft strategic plan will be shared with our community and feedback will be requested.

This is what we heard:

The feedback we received covered a wide range of areas, topics and ideas. All comments were reviewed, and key themes were identified. These have been summarized below each question.



Question 1: What are your hopes for your children's/your education and school experience?

Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A desire to learn, have fun and succeed. Success was described broadly (for example, in a specific class, subject or skill, with friendships, graduation, post-secondary, in adulthood, etc.). Having a positive relationship with teacher(s) where they feel they can learn and are supported is essential. Being prepared for life after Grade 12. A need for more dedicated quiet space and fewer distractions to focus on schoolwork. Aspirations to improve in math and recognition that math is an important subject.
Parents/ Guardians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall desire for a positive, supportive educational experience for their child. Caring, skilled and invested teachers and staff with a personal connection to their students. Having students experience success. How success is defined ranged, including: developing skills, graduating, attending post-secondary, feeling positive, belonging and feeling mentally well. Increased focus and support for students in numeracy and literacy specifically referencing reading, writing and math. Other areas included social media, digital citizenship and financial literacy.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having greater supports for student physical, social, mental and intellectual development. Additional classroom support for students with complex needs and/or students who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Enhanced focus on foundational skills in the classroom such as numeracy, literacy and writing. Prepare students for life after Grade 12 with hands-on learning, experiential opportunities, life skills and field trips. Instill a love of learning in students and make learning fun. Increased supports to improve student and staff wellness and contribute to an overall positive environment.





Question 2: If you could make any changes at RVS/school, what would they be?

Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve school facilities, including: more space (more classrooms, larger hallways, quiet focus areas, outdoor classrooms, etc.), washrooms, play areas and areas to eat. A desire for more free time during the school day (longer recess, lunch breaks, study breaks, later start and earlier dismissal) as well as additional outdoor play and gym time. A need to feel safe and respected at school without bullying or negativity.
Parents/ Guardians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A desire to maintain/build a positive connection and regular communication between parents/guardians and schools/teachers. More frequent and detailed communication about student progress. More support in a variety of areas including classroom, teacher, space/ classroom size, individual learning needs and athletics.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater supports in a wide range of areas including: learning support in general, classroom support and/or target supports for students with individualized needs, smaller class sizes, and student and staff wellness.

Question 3: What do your children/you need to be successful over the next four years?

Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger grades expressed they want to learn, make friends and have fun at school. Having a positive experience with teachers is important. They want help in subjects like math so they can improve and gain confidence. Having activities and spaces that make learning fun brings enjoyment. Higher grades shared their desire to achieve academic results, be prepared for the realities of “real life” and to succeed. Success was often described as passing a test, course, grade, graduating and/or attending post-secondary. Having positive relationships with teachers and peers. Mental health is important in success as well as having a network of support.
Parents/ Guardians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For RVS to recognize the many impacts of the pandemic and have patience, compassion, understanding and a keen sense of the individual needs of students. Greater supports to meet various student needs. A strong desire for consistency and a return to normal learning environment including activities such as field trips, outdoor activities and extracurricular activities.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater supports to improve student and staff wellness. Focus on teaching foundational subjects such as literacy and numeracy, while ensuring students gain the skills they need to help them to be successful as adults. Ensuring resources are in place to provide individualized support.