

# THE BRIEF

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

February 15, 2024

### Discovery Trails Online School Provides Unique Approach to Supporting Students

- Staff from Discovery Trails Online School presented information to the Board of Trustees (the Board) of Rocky View Schools (RVS) about how staff have engaged with parents/guardians and students to provide enhanced social and emotional supports in an online environment.
- Staff have reimagined how they approach teaching and focused on building strong relationships with their students online. They have had greater interactions with families, building their capacity to provide social/emotional supports and built closer synergistic professional relationships, all of which benefit the 214 Grade 1 – 9 students at Discovery Trails.
- This approach to online learning supports RVS' Education Plan goal of creating inclusive, engaging, healthy learning opportunities for all students by creating an environment where online learners are safe and experience success, are happy, healthy and feel they belong.

### Board Sets 2024/25 Budget Process and Priorities

- The Board is responsible for approving the Board budget development process and budget priorities annually. The 2022 – 2026 RVS Strategic Plan, approved in December 2022, sets the priorities, goals and outcomes for the division to provide students with an education and school experience that supports them in achieving their absolute best.
- In alignment with the Strategic Plan, the Board approved the following as the 2024/25 budget priorities:
  - Provide direct resources to schools to support student learning with a focus on numeracy and literacy;
  - Support student and staff wellness;
  - Enhance facilities and technology infrastructure; and
  - Target an operating reserve balance at the end of 2024/25 fiscal year – excluding Transportation – at 0.5 per cent to 1 per cent.
- The Board also approved the 2024/25 budget development process, which includes a draft budget prepared for the Board's consideration in late May. The budget must be submitted to the Government of Alberta by May 31, 2024.

### New School in Langdon Officially Named Horseshoe Crossing High School

- RVS' newest school, a high school in Langdon, is currently under construction and set to open for students in September 2024.
- A naming committee was formed in December 2023 composed of parents, community members, a student and Administration to determine a short list of two options for the name of the new school to be presented to the Board for approval.
- Today the Board unanimously endorsed one of the committee's two options, Horseshoe Crossing High School. The name symbolizes Langdon's community and history while paying homage to Langdon's emblem, a horseshoe representing both good fortune and generosity of spirit. "Horseshoe" also mirrors the town's geography, notably its horseshoe-shaped railway turnaround.

- The school's location near landmarks like the "Iron Horse" Fields and Deadhorse Road underscores the region's rich equestrian and railway heritage. "Crossing" symbolizes the historic paths of the Blackfoot people, who camped in and around the area of Langdon in their travels. It is also representative of the journey students undertake toward their future.
- RVS looks forward to welcoming students to Horseshoe Crossing High School in September and celebrating the opening of the new school.

### **Staff Benefits to Transition from Self-Insured Plan to ASEBP**

- The Board approved a change to RVS' benefits model for all staff. Within the next 18 months, RVS will transition from being self-insured to contracting with Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) to administer employee health, dental, life and disability insurance, long-term disability plans, and employee and family assistance programs.
- ASEBP provides a comprehensive coverage plan similar to the current RVS self-insured plan and will result in a \$500,000 savings annually that can be reinvested into the division.
- ASEBP currently administers benefits for 58 of the 61 Alberta school divisions.
- The transition will be no later than Sept. 1, 2025, but could be as early as Sept. 1, 2024. More information will be provided to staff before the transition.

### **Board Provides Support for School Council Members to Attend ASCA Conference and AGM**

- The Board values the work of school councils and provides all RVS school councils with a membership to the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA).
- Each year, ASCA hosts a conference and AGM for their members that offers development sessions, information sharing, provincial advocacy and the opportunity to connect with other school councils from across the province. The 2024 event marks ASCA's 95th Anniversary and takes place in Edmonton, April 26 – 28.
- The Board will be sponsoring school council members to attend and funding applications are being accepted until March 8.

### **Terms of Reference for the Labour Relations Committee and the Board Planning Committee Were Revised**

- Terms of reference for Board committees are reviewed on an annual basis and changes made as required.
- To reflect current practice and clarity, proposed changes to the terms of reference for the Labour Relations were approved.
- The Board recently undertook a review of the purpose and role of the Board Planning Committee (BPC) and current best governance practices related to effective committee functioning and delegation of authority.