

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

April 11, 2024

École Edwards Elementary School Makes PBIS Part of its School Culture

- All schools in Rocky View Schools (RVS) are actively implementing the Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Schools are teaching expected behaviours and have a framework to address more serious behavioural issues. Staff from École Edwards Elementary School shared with the Board how they have embraced PBIS to help create a safe, caring, welcoming and inclusive learning community.
- Posters, student-designed expectations and PBIS sticker charts in classrooms and hallways create a visible and tangible way for students to engage. Each month, students and classroom staff investigate one aspect of the PBIS matrix, including families and staff in the discussion.
- Using PBIS has brought the school community together through common expectations and language, making it easy for new staff and students to feel a sense of belonging and understanding of what the expectations are. Embracing PBIS has resulted in a positive school culture where everyone belongs, cares, does their best and demonstrates independence.
- This work directly supports the RVS Education Plan's goal of creating inclusive, engaging, healthy learning opportunities for all students.

Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces Engagement Provides Board with Important Feedback

- Input from the community on proposed strategies for balancing student spaces in Airdrie provided the Board of Trustees (the Board) of RVS with valuable feedback to consider to best address the increasing pressures on school capacities in the city.
- Three potential solutions were presented for feedback recognizing the space challenges in Airdrie are complex and there would not be an easy answer.
- Comprehensive data and an interactive online "Your RVS Journey" tool were provided on RVSEngage.com and advertised through multiple methods throughout the fall and winter. Families, staff and community members were encouraged to visit the engagement site to view and provide feedback on the potential impact of each option being considered across Airdrie schools and how their family and children could be affected. They were also invited to attend open houses to ask questions and provide in-person feedback.
- A total of 1,316 surveys were collected and analyzed and 500 people participated in the open houses, with community members telling RVS the top three considerations they value are keeping neighbourhoods and households together, minimizing disruption and balancing enrolments to achieve the greatest overall improvement of utilizations.
- Community members had a broad range of responses expressing both support for and against each proposed solution. Respondents indicated they were concerned with overcrowding in schools and acknowledged that change is needed.
- A summary of what we heard is available on [RVSEngage](https://RVSEngage.com).

- The Board expects to make a decision regarding BASS at its April 25 regular meeting and communicate it publicly soon after.

2024/25 Funding Profile Continues to Create Challenges with Gap in Instructional Funding

- Funding profiles project what funding school divisions receive for the following school year, based on the enrolment projections every school division must submit to Alberta Education in early January. RVS received its funding profile for 2024/25 at the end of March.
- Of note in the 2024/25 funding profile for RVS:
 - Overall funding increased by 2.7 per cent, not counting funding for capital maintenance and renewal projects.
 - RVS is projecting an increase in student enrolment of approximately 2.6 per cent for the 2024/25 school year.
- The Board believes every student needs to be fully funded every year. The Weighted Moving Average (WMA) funding model used by Alberta Education to determine the level of base instructional funding a school division receives continues to disadvantage growing divisions like RVS.
 - Even with supplemental enrolment growth grants, RVS had been spending more on instruction than we receive in instruction grants. In the past, money provided to RVS for system administration has needed to be re-allocated to cover the deficit in the instruction budget.
 - Supplemental enrolment grant funding helps but does not eliminate the gap created by the WMA. The supplemental enrolment grant funding is projected to be \$1.6 million in 2024/25; however, RVS would need it to be \$3.7 million to eliminate the impact of the WMA.
- The Board will have challenging decisions to make even with this additional funding with the growing complexities in RVS classrooms, enrolment growth and inflating costs.

RVS Expenditures Trend Lower than Projected

- Expenditures for RVS are trending slightly lower than anticipated in several areas for the second quarter of the 2024/25 school year. As of the end of February 2024, we are seeing spending slightly less than projected for teacher leave costs, salaries and benefits for teachers and support staff, and services and supplies.
- As a result, RVS could see a small \$550,000 surplus at year-end rather than the originally budgeted \$1.9 million draw from reserves anticipated in the spring budget.
- RVS is projecting total revenues of \$316.2 million by August 31, 2024, compared to revenues of \$315.2 million expected in the spring budget.
- Administration will continue to closely monitor spending.

Request Made to City of Chestermere to Complete Purchase of Land for High School Site

- A new high school in Chestermere is number three on the Board's capital priorities for 2025 – 2028.
- The school is planned for a 15.96-acre site in Chelsea, in the city's northwest. The City has purchased 8.95 acres but to date has not completed the purchase of the remaining 7.01 acres.
- The Board has sent a letter to the City's administration requesting the purchase of the outstanding land be completed as soon as possible. This is critical as without this land, and the City working with the developer to address all of Alberta Education's site readiness criteria, the project cannot ultimately move higher on our Board's capital priority list nor be approved by the province for construction funding.

Changes Made to Trustee Compensation and Development Policy

- Board Policy 27 – Trustee Compensation and Development seeks to provide clarity and transparency to the compensation received by trustees for the time spent carrying out the business of the Board and attending to their duties. It also recognizes the need for trustees to participate in relevant development opportunities and resources that support the role of a trustee.