## Media Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 29, 2024 RE: RVS seeks public feedback on ward boundaries

The Rocky View Schools (RVS) Board of Trustees (the Board) will seek public feedback on the school division's ward boundaries during a series of engagement sessions and an online survey this spring.

"The Board believes that a key foundation of good governance and accountability is electoral representation," said Board Chair, Fiona Gilbert. "Given the rapid growth of some communities RVS serves we believe it is time to review ward boundaries and engage the public for their thoughts."

The Board is engaging in a <u>ward boundary review</u> to ensure effective and equitable representation is maintained. RVS currently has six wards and eight trustees to serve nearly 200,000 residents. Ward boundaries were last changed in 2017. Since that time, some of the communities served by the school division have changed significantly.

Three options are being presented for public feedback:

- A seven-trustee option combining Ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas) and Ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathyrn and Airdrie rural areas) and redistributing 5,600 residents from Ward 6 (Cochrane: Sunset Ridge) into Ward 5 (Bragg Creek, Springbank, Bearspaw, Westbrook and Cochrane rural areas).
- An eight-trustee option adding a trustee to Ward 6 (Cochrane would now have two trustees) and combining Ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas) and Ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathyrn and Airdrie rural areas).
- A nine-trustee option adding a trustee to Ward 6 (Cochrane would now have two trustees), and redistributing 8,600 residents from Ward 3 (Airdrie: North of Veterans Blvd) into Ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathyrn, and Airdrie rural areas) and redistributing 5,100 residents from Ward 1 (Chestermere: East side of the Lake and East of Range Road 282 on the south end of the lake) into Ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural areas).

Further explanation of these options, along with current and proposed ward maps, are available on <u>RVSEngage</u>.

The public is invited to take part in the review process by attending a public meeting and/or providing feedback through <u>RVSEngage</u>. Four public meetings will be held:

- May 14, 6:30 8 p.m.: East Lake School (Learning Commons), 325 Kinniburgh Blvd., Chestermere
- May 15, 6:30 8 p.m.: Cochrane Christian Academy (Learning Commons), 129 Powell St., Cochrane
- May 21, 6:30 8 p.m.: W.H. Croxford High School (Learning Commons), 2654 Chinook Winds Drive S.W., Airdrie
- May 27, 6:30 8 p.m.: Online via Zoom (https://rockyview.zoom.us/my/rvsboard)

Feedback can also be submitted online through <u>RVSEngage</u> until June 16. The feedback received will inform the Board's decision which could be to not change the ward boundaries, or a different option than those initially proposed for review.

Following the consultation, a decision is anticipated to be made in the fall. If the Board decides to make changes to the current ward boundaries and/or the number of trustees, the changes will go into effect for the October 2025 election.

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