

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

May 30, 2024

Staff Recognized for Academic Achievement at Annual Event

- The Board of Trustees (the Board) of Rocky View Schools (RVS) extends its congratulations to 33 staff members who have pursued lifelong learning and professional growth. These staff members exemplify the commitment RVS has to lifelong learning through post-secondary education and professional certification.
- Staff were recognised during a special reception May 30.
- Strengthening the division's workforce is a priority in RVS' Strategic Plan with a goal of supporting professional learning opportunities that build expertise, increase capacity and enhance leadership development.

2024/25 School Calendar Modified

- The Board approved a few small changes to the school calendar for the 2024/25 school year, including adding staggered student start days in September 2024 which have been used for the past number of years to decrease student anxiety around the start of another school year.
- Other changes include holding three-way parent/teacher/child conference days for Kindergarten in the fall and in the spring, and again approving full-day alternating-day Kindergarten for Cochrane Christian Academy, Indus School, Langdon School, Kathryn School and Westbrook School. In addition, the professional learning day originally scheduled for Oct. 11, will be moved to Oct. 25 for the colony schools only, to allow teachers to attend the Alberta Colony Educators Conference.

2024/25 Budget Focuses on Providing Resources Directly to Schools

- The approved 2024/25 RVS Budget reflects the Board's budget priorities of providing direct resources to schools to support student learning, supporting student and staff wellness, and enhancing facilities and technology infrastructure, while targeting a fiscally responsible operating reserve balance at the end of the 2024/25 fiscal year.
- The vast majority of the \$326.6 million budget will go directly to schools in areas such as classroom and school staffing, numeracy and literacy, inclusion supports, Indigenous knowledge-building, supporting student and staff wellness, technology and school-based supplies and resources.
- To support climbing enrolments and increasing complexities in classrooms, more than 92 per cent of instructional dollars will go directly to schools with the remaining dollars managed centrally to support schools and school staff.
 - The division will maintain class size guidelines for Kindergarten – Grade 8/9 levels by adding new teachers to support the growing student population with 1,416 teaching staff in total. Inclusive learning environments will be supported in schools by 330 learning assistants across the division. RVS is investing

\$500,000 above the provincial specialized learning grants received to provide additional school-based inclusion support.

- Students will be further supported by approximately 42 full-time division staff who will be working directly in schools assisting classroom teachers.
- The Weighted Moving Average (WMA) funding model used by the provincial government continues to disadvantage growing divisions like RVS as it does not provide funding for all students every year. The budget requires \$1.8 million of operating reserves and \$500,000 in unspent system administration grants to balance. Reserves at the end of 2024/25 are projected to be just above the provincially mandated minimum set by the government.
- The Board will continue to advocate to the provincial government for the ongoing increases in funding needed to ensure all RVS students receive the education they deserve to achieve their absolute best.

Revised Board Advocacy Priorities Highlight Ongoing Need for Funding and Resources

- The Board Advocacy Committee reviewed the existing Board Advocacy Priorities, originally approved in September 2020, and revised it to integrate key aspects of RVS' Strategic Plan.
- The updated Board Advocacy Priorities include two pillars - Space for Students and Support for Students, each highlighting specific calls to the provincial government to ensure all students can learn, belong and succeed.
- The Board believes engaging in advocacy work is critical to create the conditions in which students and teachers can do their best work.
- The revised Board Advocacy Priorities will be published on RVS' website over the summer.

Changes to Board Policy Approved

- After a thorough review, the Board has approved changes to Board Policy 7 – Board Operations to reflect current practice, to address a number of identified issues in the current policy and to bring the policy up to date.
- The updated policy will be posted to the website in the coming days.

Board approves Town of Cochrane's Horse Creek Master Plan

- Since 2016, RVS and the Town of Cochrane have been working towards designing and developing the quarter section of land (Horse Creek) which RVS originally purchased for a future high school. The Town of Cochrane intends to purchase 129 acres from RVS to provide a multiuse sports park for Cochrane residents. The remaining portion will stay with RVS and eventually house a high school.
- The Minister of Education previously approved the sale of a portion of the land to the municipality. With this master plan approval, RVS will need updated ministerial approval as the location of the school site within the quarter section has changed and then the sale of the remaining portion can be finalized.