

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Oct. 3, 2024

Students' Unique Invention Protects Parks Through Hands-on Learning

Grade 1 and 2 French Immersion students from Airdrie's A.E. Bowers Elementary School collaborated with Parks Canada in 2023/24 to develop a tool which encourages users of national parks and picnic areas to pick up after themselves. The three-month long project teamed the A. E. Bowers students with Grade 9 students from George McDougall High School. The students collaborated to design and 3D print a garbage receptacle that attaches to a picnic table, as well as an accompanying bilingual music video for Parks Canada about the importance of keeping the parks clean. The students traveled to Banff to see their invention being used in the wild, and local Airdrie media covered this innovative project and partnership.

Students used and developed their critical thinking, communication, problem solving, collaboration, creativity, innovation and citizenship skills throughout this project, all key to building future-ready students which is one of the goals of Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Education Plan.

Chestermere Student Accommodation Engagement Open Now

RVS' schools in Chestermere are experiencing enrolment pressures that require new school builds as soon as possible, but despite design funding being approved for one Chestermere school in Budget 2024, this pressure on existing schools will continue until this much-needed school can be built. An RVS staff working group conducted a thorough review of the situation in 2023/24 and determined some relief could be achieved through the changing of grade levels at East Lake School and the redesignation of some communities to Rainbow Creek and Prairie Waters elementary schools.

The Board and RVS administration are committed to actively engaging the community. Administration developed a plan to engage the community to gather feedback on the proposed solution. This public engagement will run until December 2024 and includes both in person and online opportunities to participate. The Board aims to make a decision at the public Board meeting on Jan. 23, 2025. This decision, once made, will come into effect at the start of the 2025/26 school year. More information can be found on [RVSEngage.com](https://www.rvschools.ca/RVSEngage.com).

Supporting Student Learning Through Professional Development Focussed on Inclusion

The RVS Learning department provided an update to the Board on professional development opportunities they presented to classroom staff and school administrators in 2023/24, which support RVS' inclusion and diversity guidelines and is intended to support instructional practice. Using evidence-based instructional practices and strategies, woven through multi-tiered systems of supports, student academic and social-emotional engagement is nurtured, often leading to greater academic achievement and success for all children and students. Providing student-centered education that is inclusive, safe and supportive is one of the goals of RVS' multi-year Strategic Plan.

Feedback 2025/26 and 2026/27 School Calendars

Administration presented feedback collected from staff, students and parents/guardians about the options for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 school calendars which the Board will now review and consider. Just slightly less than 3,000 responses were collected. Once approved later this fall, the calendars will be posted on the division website.

2024/25 Advocacy Priorities Focus on Space and Supports for Students.

The Advocacy Committee provided an update to the Board regarding the work being done to share and advance the Board's advocacy priorities – Space for Students and Support for Students. The Board's thoughtfully developed advocacy priorities are specific areas where increased government support is essential to address critical needs that impact the educational experience and outcomes of our students.

The 2024/2025 Advocacy Plan builds on the successes and learnings of previous plans with high-level goals to:

- Build understanding and support
- Communicate consistently through diverse channels
- Empower participation

Updates Made to Student Transportation Policy

Changes to simplify and modernize Policy 17 – Student Transportation have been approved. While there are quite a few changes to the policy, it is important to note these do not include any changes to service levels or current practices. The revised policy will take effect Dec. 1.