

# THE BRIEF

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Jan. 9, 2025

### Students Utilize Many Skills Through Involvement in the TELUS Spark Prototype Project

Grade 6 students from Rainbow Creek Elementary School in Chestermere presented to the Board of Trustees about their participation in the TELUS Spark Prototype Project during which they created games, models and other science centre experience prototypes. The students were guided by their teachers, TELUS Spark staff and mentors from the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM). The prototypes were intended to inspire TELUS Spark to create new prototypes for the facility. The students showed off their work at the school on Dec. 4, 2024, and then presented the prototypes at TELUS Spark on Dec. 11, 2024. The students used a variety of skills - critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, collaboration, creativity, innovation, etc. – while working on this project which helps to build future-ready students, a goal of RVS' Education Plan.

### Board Provided First Quarter Financial Update

RVS' budget continues to feel significant pressure despite an increase in the base grant received from the provincial government of \$4.1 million announced in July 2024. Lower than expected enrolment leading to a reduction in instructional funding as well as an increase in funding for mental health and curriculum grants means RVS is expecting a higher than budgeted revenue of \$328.5 million for the 2024/25 school year. This is an increase of \$4.6 million above the original expected revenue of \$323.8 million; however, despite this increase RVS is anticipating a deficit of approximately \$2.5 million to be drawn from the division's reserves. This is an increase from the \$1.8 million draw from reserves outlined in the spring budget. RVS' reserves at the end of August 2025 will be \$5.6 million or 1.69 per cent of the total operating budget.

### Financial Support provided for Airdrie Turf Field

RVS received a request from the City of Airdrie for financial support for the turf field at Ed Eggerer Athletic Park which opened in September 2024. The field is used by Bert Church High School and other Airdrie schools. The total cost of the turf field project is approximately \$6.6 million. The City requested funds from RVS and after consideration of a variety of ways financial support could be given, the Board is providing a one-time capital contribution of \$300,000 with funds drawn from the employee benefits reserve. The Board will ask the City to support RVS schools by providing expanded access to the field.

### Board Continues to Advocate for New Funding Model

Letters were sent to the education minister as well as area MLAs in December 2024 advocating that any new funding model must be rooted on the principle that every student needs to be fully funded every year. Minister Nicolaides has indicated the provincial government will have a new funding model in place for Budget 2025.

### Changes to Board Policies Approved

Board policies are routinely reviewed to ensure these remain up-to-date and accurate. Minor changes to wording in the Inclement Weather, Community Engagement and Assurance, and Trustee Communication with the Public policies were approved.

## **Delegation - Prairie Springs Community Members**

A delegation shared feedback on the Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces accommodation plan with the Board.