

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Jan. 23, 2025

Mechanics Training Program Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Rocky View Schools' Mechanics Training Program was launched in 1999/2000 and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. This unique program, located at Cam Clark Ford in Airdrie, allows high school students to work in a fully equipped shop while learning the mechanics trade through hands on instruction. Students also learn the theoretical side of the business and emerge equipped to pursue a career in the trade after they graduate if they desire. Staff and former students of the program presented to the Board about the history of the program and their experience. RVS highly values partners such as Cam Clark Ford that are instrumental in supporting longstanding programs connecting hundreds of students to career pathways and hands-on learning opportunities. This partnership supports RVS' Strategic Plan Priority: Connecting with our community and the goal to foster new partnerships and strengthen existing relationships that enhance learning.

Chestermere Grade Configuration and Attendance Areas Changes Better Balance Utilizations

With a 262 per cent rise in population over the past two decades, RVS' schools in Chestermere are experiencing significant and sustained enrolment growth. Recognizing RVS' schools in Chestermere will continue to see increasing enrolment and high utilization rates, the community was invited in October/November 2024 to provide feedback on a proposed solution to balance utilizations within the constraints of the available student spaces until new schools can be approved and built. The feedback showed the majority of participants were in favour of the proposed changes.

At today's meeting, the Board approved changes to East Lake School's grade configuration, which adds a second school offering middle school to the city. The Christian and French Immersion programs for Kindergarten to Grade 6 will remain at East Lake School and the Christian and French Immersion programs for Grades 7 to 9 will continue to be offered at Chestermere Lake Middle School.

Several communities will also be redesignated to different schools, resulting in more students learning closer to home. The changes will go into effect for September 2025. Families impacted by the changes will be notified and supported through the transition.

The Board thanks everyone who participated in the engagement and provided important feedback to inform its decision.

Muriel Clayton Middle School Designation Adjusted to Address Utilization

Today the Board of Trustees made an important decision regarding school designations for students residing in the Prairie Springs neighbourhood to help address higher projected utilization at Muriel Clayton Middle School.

As RVS works to implement changes made in the [Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces decision in April 2024](#), the division has monitored utilization and projected enrolments for all schools. These updated numbers have indicated a need to change the designation decision for the Prairie Springs neighbourhood.

Beginning in the 2025/26 school year, students residing in Prairie Springs will attend:

- Kindergarten to Grade 9 at Windsong Heights School
- Grades 10 – 12 at W.H. Croxford High School

More information regarding the changes being implemented in September is available on the [website](#).

Education Plan Update

RVS' current division Educational Plan includes nurturing skills in numeracy, literacy, global citizenship, collaboration and problem solving, and inclusivity in healthy and safe environments intended to equip students for academic success as well as success in an ever evolving and increasingly more complex world. Now in year two of this four year plan, RVS teaching staff and school administrators have been working hard in support of the plan's goals and outcomes.

- Provincial government mandatory literacy and numeracy screening and assessment results were shared.
- Based on these literacy results, RVS is targeting government provided Learning Disruption Funding to provide additional supports to 10 schools while other schools may reach out for additional support and each request will be considered.
- RVS administered a new numeracy assessment aligned with the curriculum for Grade 4 – 10 students.
- The OurSchool survey was implemented for the first time in the spring of 2024 for Grade 4 – 12 students. The survey is a student perceptual survey that asks them questions related to how they feel about their school, their learning and skills, themselves and their future aspirations. More than 15,000 students participated in the survey, and the schools are at the early stages of understanding the data and planning for implementation in the spring of 2025. We also intend to expand the survey to parents.
- A Career Learning Practice Guide has been developed which provides guidance to all schools for advancing career learning and planning for Grade 1– 12 students.
- RVS is expanding and deepening positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS) implementation across all schools and on school buses.

Trustee Orientation Ad Hoc Committee Created for Upcoming Trustee Election

An ad hoc committee has been created by the Board to guide development and delivery of the orientation process for new trustees following the election in October. Trustees Burley, Hunter and Kinley were appointed to this committee.

Response from Education Minister to Ongoing Board Advocacy

The Board received a letter from Minister of Education, Demetrios Nicolaidis in response to its letter regarding the need for a more equitable funding model. The Board will continue to advocate for a change to the current Weighted Moving Average funding model to one which provides funding for every student each year.