

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Feb. 13, 2025

Coding Club Helping to Build Future-Ready Students

Reese Ochitwa, a grade 12 student at Bert Church High School in Airdrie, used her passion for computer programming, [creating a coding club](#) where she could get together with other students to share and build on their skills. With six members from Grades 9 – 12, the group gets together weekly at lunchtime in the robotics room, practicing their coding by developing websites and writing Javascript and Python video games. The club is modeled on similar Hack Clubs in schools around North America. This inclusive, student-led program is supported by school staff and is helping these students to develop skills they may use in [their future careers](#), which aligns with [RVS' Education Plan](#) and the goal of building future-ready students.

Maintenance and Renewal Projects on Schedule

The provincial government provides grants to school divisions for the maintenance and renewal of school buildings. For the 2024/25 school year, RVS received \$2.9 million in Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) funding and \$4.7 million in Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) funding. RVS' Operations department is responsible for determining where maintenance is required and overseeing the work. Projects undertaken to date include roofing inspections and replacements where required, mechanical/plumbing upgrades and barrier-free washroom modifications, painting and flooring projects, mechanical upgrades and re-paving and repair of parking lots.

Enrolment Update

Students arrive and depart schools in RVS every day, as they move in or out of the division's boundaries. At the end of September 2024 enrolment in RVS was 29,243, rising to 29,481 by the end of January 2025. The provincial Government does not provide any grants for students who move in after Sept. 30. Needing to find additional funds for hundreds of students every year who do not generate additional government funding creates challenges and disadvantages for growing school divisions like RVS. The government has indicated it is reviewing the provincial funding model, and the Board believes a new funding model must be rooted in the principle of every student being fully funded every year.

Board Approves Budget Development Process and Budget Priorities

Each year, the Board approves the budget development process and the budget priorities. These are communicated to administration at schools and leaders at the Education Centre and are used to develop school/departmental budgets.

The budget priorities are strongly aligned with RVS' [Strategic Plan](#). The priorities for 2025/26 are:

- Provide direct resources to schools to support student learning with a focus on numeracy, literacy and new curriculum implementation.
- Support student and staff wellness.
- Enhance facilities and technology infrastructure.
- Target an operating reserve balance at the end of 2025/26 fiscal year, excluding transportation, at 1 to 2 per cent.

For 2025/26, schools have been directed to maintain optional school fees at the current levels, if possible, with no increases to individual courses greater than \$10 or five per cent. No new alternative program fees for programs of choice are to be introduced.

It is anticipated the Board's Budget Committee will receive the final operational and capital budgets for review by May 15. These will be brought forward at the May 22 regular public meeting of the Board for final review and if approved, communicated to school and Education Centre administration as well as our school communities and the general public.

Trustee Compensation Ad Hoc Committee

An ad hoc committee to review trustee compensation at RVS and other comparable school boards across the province has been struck. The committee will also review and compare practices related to board policy frameworks and board development. The committee is comprised of three trustees, the superintendent of schools and other staff as required.

Board Meeting Dates set for 2025/26

The calendar of meeting dates for the Board for the 2025/26 school year was approved and will be posted on the RVS [website](#).