

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

March 6, 2025

Students Participate in Mock Legislative Assembly to Grow Important Skills

Grade 6 students from Windsong Heights School in Airdrie had an opportunity to experience the Alberta Legislative Assembly when they held a simulation with all students contributing by taking on roles such as Premier, Speaker of the House, leader of the official opposition, clerk, page and other members of the legislature during this special social studies class. Using their problem-solving, communication, critical thinking and collaboration skills, the students introduced a bill which was then debated, voted on and passed.

Students actively engaging in meaningful and relevant learning like this legislative assembly simulation allows students to demonstrate several outcomes of Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Education Plan, including showing cultural and global citizenship, creativity and innovation, and personal growth.

New Locally Developed Courses Approved

Locally developed courses (LDCs) allow school divisions to provide their students with access to unique opportunities to explore a range of interests in subject areas not part of the regular curriculum. These LDCs may be used to accommodate student needs and interests, encourage and support innovative learning, address local community priorities and engage students who may be at risk of leaving school before graduating. New LDCs can be added each school year. For 2025/26, the Board approved the acquisition or extension of courses in guitar, media and cinema, portfolio art, positive psychology, the study of well-being, yoga fitness, Arabic language and culture, drawing and introduction to Canadian studies for English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners.

Education Funding in Provincial Budget 2025

The provincial government introduced Budget 2025 on Feb. 27. RVS appreciates the government's continued investment in K-12 education to address some of the pressures being felt across the system.

The adjusted funding formula for school divisions, which still utilizes the previous year's enrolment numbers, is a step forward but does not go far enough to ensure growing divisions like RVS are not disadvantaged by increasing enrolment. RVS believes the funding model for schools must be rooted in the principle of every student being fully funded every year. Part of government's response to the pressures seen by growing school divisions previously was a Supplemental Enrolment Grant which provided additional funding to divisions with increasing enrolment; this grant has been eliminated in Budget 2025.

RVS is optimistic the government will continue to recognize the extreme enrolment pressures of our overutilized schools in its capital announcement in the coming weeks. RVS requires ongoing new school approvals to catch up with years of unprecedented enrolment growth and keep pace with future growth. Additional funding in Budget 2025 for modular classrooms is also appreciated as they can help with space challenges until new schools can be built and open.

RVS is eager to review the division's funding profile, when it is released in the weeks ahead, to understand how Budget 2025 will support RVS in addressing growing enrolments, increasing complexities and shifting demands in schools.

RVS Celebrates Construction Funding for Two New Schools

On February 15, the Board celebrated the approval of construction funding to build two new urgently needed schools as part of the School Accelerator Program. The future opening of a new high school in the Southwinds community of Airdrie and a new K-9 school in the community of Dawson's Landing in Chestermere will help relieve space pressures in some of the division's most overcrowded schools.

Horseshoe Crossing High School to Hold Grand Opening

Members of the Board, executive and other dignitaries will attend the official opening of RVS' newest school in Langdon, Horseshoe Crossing High School, on March 7.

Delegation – Busing and Transportation for Cochrane Christian Academy

A delegation shared feedback on busing and transportation with the Board.