

## Parent Council Report

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

- 1) Exemplary Practice √ WG Murdoch School Social Studies Students modelled their own Museum for Human Rights Displays at their school for their local families and staff. Students had project-based learning on topics they wanted to research. The project was sparked by a Virtual Visit to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg. They had to develop their own promotional materials and create a Call to Action such as a fundraiser or letter writing campaign related to their topic. It was a very successful research project.
- 2) Student Transportation √ RVS»Transportation department serves approximately 12,700 students. 87% are RVS students and 13% are Calgary Catholic students. There are upcoming challenges: securing enough drivers and buses for the many routes. There are still supply chain issues of buses and replacement parts. Transportation is taking a multi faceted approach and has initiatives to support bus contractors and retain drivers. The new Where» the Bus app is presently being test piloted and will roll out in the next few months. An RVS initiative is that any drivers from Rocky View who drive within Rocky View Schools will have their children» bus fees covered.
- 3) Indigenous Learning continues to support staff and students in ensuring Indigenous Ways of Knowing. Curricular, resource support, professional learning, protocol guidance and planning for recognition of significant events √ Rock your Mocs, Summer and Winter Solstice, Orange Shirt Day, Red Dress Day are examples. There have been 131 requests for support to the committee which expanded in the fall of 2023.
- 4) Board Financial Update √ During this year, we did receive a \$1 million increase in budgeted revenues but are still feeling significant financial pressures. The additional funds were for the Supplemental Enrolment Grant and increased English as an Additional Language Funding. Increased Leave utilization and corresponding costs earlier this fall caused significant budget adjustments in school and central level spending for Professional development, supplies and freezing of planned expenditures for technology and other equipment. Our reserve balance is projected to be 4.5 million (\$ 317 million budget) √ this constitutes a 1.4 % operating budget just above the Alberta Education established threshold.
- 5) Protocol Ensures Student Safety During Inclement Weather based on implementation of the Inclement Weather Protocol: committees for each area composed of one trustee and a designated Principal meet before 5 am and make recommendations to the Superintendent of Schools. Based on the recommendations, the Superintendent decided to close all schools (except for online schools) and cancel buses Jan 12. Jan 15 schools remained open, but buses were not running in part due to contractor shortages. Even when schools are

closed, several staff will be on site to ensure a safe, warm space is available. Despite no buses running on Monday Jan 15<sup>th</sup> √ 68% of RVS»overall student population attended.

- 6) The Board ratified their agreement with Alberta Teachers Association Local # 35. And local # 35 has ratified the settlement too.
- 7) Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces engagements have been held over the last two weeks. We have heard great feedback from parents. Thank you to staff who volunteer their time to assist in these RVS community events.
- 8) Upcoming ASCA Conference April 26<sup>th</sup> √ 28<sup>th</sup>. Just a reminder that you will be seeing information on the upcoming conference. School Councils supports attendance at the conference up to \$1000/person or \$2000 per school.
- 9) Check out the new RVS website. Changes have been made and we value your feedback as we try to make it as user friendly and informative as possible.
- 10) Don't forget to save the date March 14<sup>th</sup> for our next Joint/School Board Council Meeting at the Education Centre. This is for Council Chairs, Vice Chairs and Principals.

Questions:

Shelley Kinley

Board of Trustees

Rocky View Schools

skinley@rockyview.ab.ca