

March Parent Council Report 2025

- 1) Exemplary Practice – 1a) A student at Bert Church High School used her passion for Computer programming to start a Coding Club. Grades 9-12 participate and get together weekly. They develop websites and write Javascript and Python video games. The club is modeled on similar ‘Hack Clubs’ in schools around North America. This is a student led program that is supported by staff, and we are all very proud of Reese for starting the club. 1b) Grade 6 students from Windsong Heights 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 media. Students introduced a bill which was then debated, voted on and passed.**
- 2) Maintenance and renewal projects are on schedule - For the 2024/2025 school year, RVS received 2.9 million in Infrastructure and Renewal (IMR) Funding. RVS’ operations department is responsible for where maintenance is required and oversees the work. Local projects – Langdon – Sand and reline gym floor, ceiling upgrades, LED, painting and Duct Cleaning, Chestermere Lift station (High School) is part of the 4.7 as Million in Capital Maintenance Renewal projects being funded.**
- 3) Enrolment update – students arrive and depart monthly from RVS. To start the year we were at 29,243 students and by end of January we were at 29,481. With the current WMA funding we receive – that means 248 students are not funded by the government this year. Needing to find this additional funding creates many challenges and disadvantages for growing school divisions like ours.**
- 4) The Board has approved budget development process and priorities - The budget is strongly aligned with RVS’ Strategic Plan. Priorities for 2025/2026: 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 1 – 2 % (excluding transportation).**
- 5) School Budgets: schools have been directed to maintain optional school fees at current levels, if possible, with no increases to**

individual courses greater than \$10.00 or 5%. No new alternative program fees for programs of choice are to be introduced. Final budget should be reviewed by May 15th and will be brought forward May 22 to the public Board meeting for final review, and if approved, communicated to schools, Ed Centre Admin, school communities and the public.

- 6) Ad Hoc committee to review Trustee Compensation at RVS and compare it with comparable boards has been struck. The committee will also review and compare practices related to Board policy**
- 7) The calendar of meeting dates for the Board for the 2025/2026 school year was approved and will be posted on the RVS website.**
- 8) New locally developed courses were approved. They are used to accommodate student needs and interests, encourage and support innovative learning and address local community priorities. New LDC's can be added each school year. Ex. Guitar, media and cinema, portfolio art, positive psychology, study of well being, yoga fitness, Arabic language and culture, drawing and introduction to Canadian studies for English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners.**
- 9) Education Funding in Provincial Budget – Items listed by AG – Adjusted funding formula (2 years instead of 3 year WMA) is better but not full funding every year for every student (Supplemental enrolment grant eliminated), more school builds, increased funding to trades and dual credit programming, increased Education property tax, almost 10 Billion in Education funding. As we find out exactly what this means to RVS, we will share.**
- 10) Two new schools were approved as part of the School Accelerator Program – a K-9 in Dawson's Landing and a new high school for Airdrie in Southwinds.**
- 11) Horseshoe Crossing Grand Opening was held on Friday. It was well attended and was a great opportunity for dignitaries, local community, and staff to tour the new school. Approximately 400 people were in attendance.**
- 12) A delegation shared feedback on busing and transportation with the Board for Cochrane Christian Academy.**
- 13) We have hired a new Superintendent – Ryan Reed will be starting on September 1st, 2025. Greg Luterbach is retiring at the end of August. Shelley Kinley Trustee
skinley@rockyview.ab.ca**