

Trustee Report – Parent Council

Langdon School – April 30th, 2025

- 1) Exemplary Practice: Chestermere High School's Fine Arts Academy presented to the Board. Using performing arts, music and fine arts teachers work alongside students and other school disciplines (cosmetology, fashion studies) to present a play. This year it is Grease, and the productions will run for a week at the end of May. Students can participate as a performer, ensemble musician, or theatre tech. Over 100 hundred students participate in the production. Tickets are available on the RVS website. Tickets are on sale now \$15.00 and can be purchased online.
- 2) RVS Nominee – Conner Benson, the music teacher from Cochrane High School, has been recognized as our RVS nominee. Under his leadership, Benson leads the band and choir at numerous festivals, including participation at Disneyland. His leadership is marked by compassion, engagement, humor and grace. Congratulations, Conner. Edwin Parr nominees will be celebrated May 30th at the ASBA Zone 5 Edwin Parr Celebration in Okotoks!
- 3) Our 2026-2029 Capital Plan highlights the need for a steady stream of schools in Rocky View. Schools, modulars and school expansions are all required to keep up with growth. Request to build six new schools and one expansion/modernization has been forwarded to the AB Government. On March 14th a high school for Chestermere was announced and a K-9 in Airdrie. With seven new school projects in 2023, 2024 and 2025 currently in various stages of development, expediting these projects is a priority.
- 4) RVS' Indigenous Branch provides important connections and supports. The Branch was established in 2022 and has grown to include a Director, three learning specialists, two indigenous cultural liaisons and two indigenous connectors provide support to staff and students Important work completed by the team include: increased numbers of First Nations, Metis and Inuit guests into schools to share their knowledge, developed the Indigenous Learning Self Reflection Tool, lead professional learning opportunities for teachers and other staff and facilitate the Indigenous Advisory Circle. The branch also launched an internal website to provide curricular resources and foundational knowledge for various grade levels in English and French.
- 5) The Board is committed to safe, accessible transportation while minimizing rising cost to families. Transportation fees have been maintained over the last four years but mounting costs require an increase to the fee structure to close the gap between government funding and the cost of providing service. The fee will be raised \$70.00 for Grades 1 -12 in the 2025/2026 school year (while maintaining family and early registration discounts), Kindergarten will now be paying for a half price rate and full fee charge for students requiring a second stop. Given the unpredictability of transportation funding from government and external factors like bus and driver availability (Competitive market) and contractor costs, effectively managing transportation resources is essential for RVS to consistently meet busing needs at a reasonable cost while maintaining service levels.

- 6) The Board has approved minimal increases to school fees for 2025/26 despite increases in the cost of materials, travel, equipment and other items required in optional courses, programs, field trips, etc. Fees for Programs of Choice such as Building Futures, Mechanics Training Centre remain unchanged. Courses: 80% of current fees remain unchanged, of the 20%, less than half increased to a maximum of \$10 (5%), 106 new optional courses and extra curricular activities were added.
- 7) Community Use fees maintained at current rates to encourage use of RVS Facilities. Connecting with communities is a priority in the Board's Strategic Plan. In 2023/24, RVS facilities were accessed by the community 3,246 times.
- 8) New Developments and Approvals: RVS was awarded planning approval for two new schools by A. Ed in March a K-9 in Lanark, Airdrie and a High School in Chelsea, Chestermere – this is in addition to five other schools. See School Projects Update
- 9) Career Education Update - RVS's Career Learning Framework builds future ready students. A framework to guide career learning in the division has been developed. You can find it on the RVS website – Career Learning - information for parents to talk with their children about career options along with resources, information and opportunities.
<https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/schools/learning/career-learning>
- 10) Superintendent Luterbach will be retiring at the end of August, and after an extensive search, have found his replacement. Ryan Reed will be shadowing the Superintendent over the next four months. As well, we have filled the position of Associate Superintendent of Schools. Presently held by Murray Besenki. Jeff Smith has been hired as his replacement. Having the employees shadow will help ensure a smooth, seamless transition in these essential roles at the school division. Congratulations to Ryan and Jeff. We look forward to working with them.
- 11) The Board is committed to maximizing the budgeted allocation from Budget Alberta. Overall, we received a 2.5% increase. We are currently still working on the budget which will need to be approved at the end of the month.
- 12) Another Exemplary Practice was the Students Make a Splash Inclusive Aquatics Programs. Supported by a team of RVS staff including Learning Assistants, , Occupational Therapists, learning support staff, students went to the pool to learn water safety, strengthen motor function skills, and gain experience at the pool, on the bus and while transitioning between the two locations. Through this experience students achieve goals in their Student Success Plans while having fun in the water. Students to Genesis Place in Airdrie but the learning team is seeking partnerships for Cochrane and Chestermere area students.

Questions:

Are you aware of the range of staff we have at the school board – OT, PT, Speech Therapists, Specialists, Psychologists, AHS staff, Learning Specialists, etc.

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Board of Trustees

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