



APRIL 2021- Ward Two Trustee Report

Building Futures Constructs Space for Airdrie Pound

- The Board enjoyed a presentation that highlighted a recent partnership between the Building Futures program and the Alberta Pound and Rescue Centre (APARC).
- In February, Building Futures students designed and built rooms in APARC's 4,000 square foot warehouse in Airdrie. They worked with community partners to frame the rooms, hang drywall, install windows and paint the space, which is used to house animals.

RVS Planning to Offer Grades 1 to 12 Online in 2021/22

- The Board supported administration's recommendation to continue an online learning option for Grades 1-12 beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. There is belief that there will be considerable interest from RVS families in this type of program and that RVS can continue to offer a quality online education option to meet these needs.
- A task force has been created to make recommendations on how online programming could operate in the future, and that group is working to solicit feedback from current online teachers, parents and students.
- In response to the pandemic, RVS began offering a fully online option for Grades 1-12. Approximately 3,000 students – 10-12 per cent of enrolment – took advantage of this option in 2020/21.

RVS Requests Additional Modular Units to Address Enrolment Growth

- Despite pressing needs for more space to accommodate growing enrolment, no new schools were approved for RVS in the government's Budget 2021. The government is allowing school jurisdictions to make additional requests for modular units, otherwise known as portables, to address enrolment pressures.
- RVS will add a request for 18 more modular units to its existing request from the Government of Alberta, along with 13 modular units already requested in November 2020. The division is looking for a total of 31 units plus support to relocate eight existing modulars.

- RVS' new request includes more modular units at Bert Church High School, W.H. Croxford High School and Northcott Prairie School in Airdrie along with modulars for Bow Valley High School, Manachaban Middle School, Fireside School and Mitford School in Cochrane.

Prince of Peace School Closure and Potential Relocation of Program

May 13, 2021 – Board Decision

Location/Time: Online via Zoom at <https://rockyview.zoom.us/my/rvsboard> 10 a.m.

Purpose: The Board will consider the future of Prince of Peace Lutheran School at its public Board meeting. A notice will be issued to all stakeholders regarding any decision following the adjournment of the public meeting.

Board Receives Funding Profile from Alberta Government

- On March 31, the Alberta government released funding profiles for school divisions in the province. RVS anticipates receiving grants from Alberta Education in the amount of \$239.8 million for the 2021/22 school year. For comparison, RVS received \$238.5 million in 2020/21.
- When Budget 2021 was released in February, Alberta Education stated no school division would receive less funding than they did in 2020/21. This was important because RVS had less students enrolled compared to projections for this year and, per the existing funding formula, could have faced a claw back of funding in subsequent years.
- Alberta Education highlighted that RVS would have received nearly \$7.2 million less if that funding formula was followed. RVS appreciates that the government is not withholding funds as a result of enrolment fluctuations caused by COVID-19.
- Administration continues to work with the Board's Budget Committee to develop a 2021/22 budget proposal. This will be considered by the Board before the end of May.

Board to Advocate to Prioritize School Staff for Vaccinations and for Information Relevant to Student Mental Health and Wellbeing

- The Board passed a motion to write the Minister of Health asking for increased accountability, assurance and transparency of recent decisions and their effect on the student mental health and wellbeing.
- Another motion to write a letter advocating that school staff be prioritized in provincial vaccination efforts was also approved by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

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