

School Council Report – October 2022

- 1) At the organizational meeting a new Chair and Vice Chair were elected for the upcoming year.
Norma Lang – Trustee for Crossfield - Chair and Shelley Kinley – Vice Chair.
- 2) RVS Enrolment on track to surpass projection – Final number shows an increase of 990 students or 3.72 % which exceeds the projection made in February. RVS has a total of 27,612 students. These numbers are submitted to Alberta Education and are important for funding purposes. The overall utilization rate for RVS schools has increased to 91% from 87% in 2021/2022.
- 3) This year's enrolment increase is consistent with the trend of 750-1000 new students per year – 1 full school. With no new schools approved this year by the provincial government, pressure on students, teachers, and existing infrastructure continues to intensify.
- 4) Last Thursday, RVS hosted their School Council Chairs Orientation and Bylaws Workshop. It was well attended as there were just under 50 participants. Great discussion about the important role of School Councils and all the ways in which they help shape the delivery of education through ongoing feedback to school administrators. At the High School level, it is also possible to have a student advisor on the Council! The session was recorded and is available at: https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/get_involved/school_councils

Joint School Councils Invitation – Board Chair Norma Lang

We look forward to seeing many of you at our face-to-face Board / School Council meeting on

October 27 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Education Centre in Airdrie. The topics being covered include:

- Alberta School Council Engagement Grants
- The draft Board Strategic Plan
- The need for advocacy in RVS on Space for Students and what parents and school councils can do to support the Board in their work advocating for more schools in our division

Dinner will be provided at the meeting.

We will also be debuting our “hot off the press” new school council chair packages. These packages will be distributed to all councils in attendance. Thank you for considering.

Please RSVP to Jennie Thompson at jthompson@rockyview.ab.ca so we can plan dinner numbers accordingly. Please let us know if you have any dietary concerns we should be aware of.

- 5) Public Engagement on Strategic Plan development for 2022-2026 is well underway. Significant input was received via the Education Plan Survey – approximately 10000 individuals responded, providing more than 27000 comments. A summary of the themes heard have been shared at www.rockyview.ab.ca . On Oct 3 – 17th, 2022 the draft summary was sent to parents/guardians, staff and the community with three open ended questions to help inform the plan. We re currently analyzing the 1,430 responses and the Board and Senior Executive will consider the feedback and continue to refine the Strategic Plan. We are expecting it to come to the Board for consideration in December.
- 6) RVS' text messaging system launched Oct 11th, 2022 which allows parents/guardians to receive updates rom their child(ren's) schools via text message. This will be for timely information from both RVS and schools, it is not meant to replace information sent via email or posted to the school's website.
- 7) The education minister has decreed that for the 2022/23 school year Diploma Exams will be valued at 20%.
- 8) Exemplary Practice Highlights Schoolwide Numeracy Games at Elbow Valley Elementary School – Last year, teachers introduced a variety of numeracy games in Grades 1-4. Each week, a new game was rolled out to students and an improvement in student learning was observed. Building on that success, the school has introduced daily numeracy games for all grades. Learning support and administration teams' model, teach and improve students' number sense. School has found this a sustainable, creative and effective way to maximize instructional time and gains in learning. All look forward to the daily math games, and parents have expressed appreciation for the engaging ways they can work on math with their children using dice and cards.
- 9) Another Exemplary Practice showcased at the Education Centre was the Muslims of W.H. Croxford School. It is a group of Muslim students at the high school who gather to practice their faith and to create awareness about their faith in a broader school community. It started in 2021/2022 and the students informed the trustees of their activities from their inaugural year: explaining Ramadan, organizing a culture day for the entire school around Eid and their plans for the current school year. Members are wanting to enrich the diversity and inclusion of their school.
- 10) Bert Church High School embarked on a project to represent their community journey of reconciliation with their Indigenous neighbors. Students, teachers and local community members brought this garden to life. They have created a garden that will be a reminder of the work that must be done to nourish healthy communities and be a way to be together every year with students and the community. The Garden had its grand opening last week and was another example of a students and teachers demonstrating reconciliation in a meaningful way.
- 11) Rocky View Schools Space for Students – Infographic handed out and shared.

Questions:

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