



Ward Two Trustee Report  
MARCH / APRIL / MAY 2020

### Langdon Junior/Senior High School Construction Update

- A conceptual design for our newest Ward 2 School was completed at the end of May.
- The province confirmed, in late April, that they will provide funding for construction to begin in the fall of 2021.
- Potential date for the school to open is September 2024.

### 2021-2023 Capital Plan Priorities

- Trustees approved RVS' 2021-2023 Capital Plan Priorities and directed administration to submit to Alberta Education by April 1, 2020.
- RVS' number one priority for the 2021 budget year is to increase the size of Bow Valley High School's existing building in order to address an anticipated utilization rate of 112 per cent.
- The second and third 2021 capital priorities are to build new schools in both Airdrie (K – Gr. 9) and Cochrane (K – Gr. 5).

### General Contractors Selected for Indus School

- Trustees awarded Westcor Construction Inc. a contract for the full renovation of Indus School.
- Trustees awarded Great Northern Plumbing Inc. a contract to complete a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system upgrade at Beiseker Community School.
- Trustees awarded Ainsworth Inc. two contracts to complete HVAC system upgrades at W.G. Murdoch School and Cochrane High School.
- Trustees awarded MJS Mechanical LTD a contract to complete a HVAC system upgrade at A.E. Bowers School.

## Schools Designated for New Chestermere Communities

- Effective September 2020, English and French Immersion students residing in Chestermere's new communities of Chelsea and Dawson's Landing will be designated to East Lake School, Chestermere Lake Middle School and Chestermere High School.
- Chestermere currently has over 20,000 residents with 3,000 students attending K- Gr.12 RVS schools.

## School Nutrition Program Funding Redirected for Community Use

- To help students and their families, in need, gain access to healthy meals while learning at-home, RVS redirected \$90,000 of its School Nutrition Program (SNP) funding to the Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere Food Banks.
- An additional \$37,500 of SNP funding has been earmarked for rural schools to ensure equitable access for vulnerable families in the community.
- Schools operational breakfast programs also have been given the greenlight to repurpose any remaining funds donated by the Breakfast Clubs of Canada and the President's Choice Children Charity as they see fit.

## Eight Students Achieved 100 Per Cent on Diploma Exams

- Trustees congratulated seven Rocky View Schools (RVS) students for obtaining 100 per cent on their 2020 diploma exams including one Chestermere High student and one Chestermere Learning Centre student.

## Trustees Approved Updates to Board Policies

- Board Policy 7 Board Operations and Policy 11 Board Delegation of Authority were updated to reflect changes to the Education Act.
- An additional revision to Policy 7 includes the ability for trustees to participate in Board meetings via electronic means.

## Trustees Approved Changes to Community Use Fees

- New Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Community Use Fees were approved, May 14, 2020, including the implementation of a new change fee for users who need to change the date/time/location after the event has been approved, a fee increase for gym and instructional space use, along with a new fee waiver application.
- Despite changes made to the fee schedule, the board is facing significant challenges with the sustainability of its rental program due to rising costs for utilities, supervision, caretaking, maintenance and/or vandalism – all of which are heavily subsidized by maintenance operating dollars.
- The fee increases will bring RVS' rates in alignment to those being charged by surrounding municipalities and neighbouring school boards.

## RVS' 2020/21 Annual Budget Approved

- Dedicated to offering the best education Rocky View Schools (RVS) can afford its students, the Board of Trustees approved its 2020/21 budget, May 21, 2020, targeting Board budget priorities of direct classroom funding to maximize student success, providing school-based supports for students with complex needs, wellness supports and literacy/numeracy skill development.
- With total revenue of \$281.4 million and expenditures of \$282.6 million, the budget directs 76.6 per cent towards instruction for Pre-Kindergarten to Gr. 12 students, 14.1 per cent to operations and maintenance, 6.5 per cent to student transportation, and 2.8 per cent to governance and administration.
- Anticipating RVS' student population will increase by 857 students next year (3.9 per cent), with operational funding from government to rise by 1.4 per cent, the Board will redirect funds and use \$1.3 million in operational reserves to support classroom instruction, limit fee increases to parents and balance the budget.
- In the area of operation and maintenance, RVS will receive an increase of \$1.8 million from the province, providing the jurisdiction the opportunity to increase attention towards preventative maintenance projects and facility upgrades to enhance learning environments.
- To help offset the continued escalation of inflationary costs in the area of student transportation, the budget reflects an increase in ridership fees from \$308 to \$375 for students attending their designated school or school of choice.
- The Board extended its thanks and gratitude to the entire learning community for its feedback into RVS' budget consultation process, which ran between February 10 to March 30, 2020.
- <https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/schools/schoolfees>

## Government Accelerated Capital Maintenance and Renewal Funding

- As part of Alberta's Capital Maintenance and Renewal (CMR) stimulus proposal, RVS received provincial approval May 21, 2020, for 18 additional projects totaling \$6.7 million.
- Slated for completion by the end of October 2020, these CMR projects are in addition to the \$9.5 million infrastructure maintenance renewal projects currently underway throughout the jurisdiction.
- CMR funding has been accelerated to help keep Albertans employed following the COVID-19 pandemic, while also providing much-needed upgrades to existing schools.

## Learning Continuity Plan Parent Survey Results

- From April 29 – May 8, 2020, Rocky View Schools (RVS) looked to its parent community to help identify both the challenges and successes of its learning continuity plan through an online survey.
- The survey, which garnered 2,881 responses, gave parents the opportunity to provide feedback on the clarity of RVS' at-home learning plan and their confidence with supporting their child.
- Results showed that 75 per cent of respondents felt the amount of work being provided to students was within the government guidelines, 90 per cent agreed that student learning expectations were clear and over 82 per cent were moderately to extremely confident with supporting their child's learning from home.
- Based on the feedback received, RVS will be communicating improvements to its learning continuity plan shortly.

## Virtual Joint Board/School Council Meeting

- RVS' Board of Trustees invited school council members to join its first virtual Joint Board - School Council meeting on May 28, 2020. Discussion topics included: RVS 2020/21 Budget; COVID-19 and school re-entry dialogue; Good news and cool things in RVS.

## Re-Entry Scenarios & Guidance

Alberta Education released details of its summer and fall re-entry plans, June 10, 2020. As RVS begins to plan for each scenario, it's important to note that a decision on which scenario will be in effect for the start of fall classes will be made no later than **Aug. 1, 2020**, and that decision will depend on advice from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. Further details on RVS' Re-entry Plan will be announced before the end of June. Details of the ministry's re-entry plan include:

[2020-21 School Re-Entry Plan](#)

[COVID-19 information: Guidance for School Re-Entry – Scenario 1 – In-school classes resume \(near normal with health measures\)](#)

[COVID-19 information: Guidance for School Re-Entry – Scenario 2 – In-school classes partially resume \(with additional health measures\)](#)

## Trustees Celebrated RVS Staff Members' Dedication to Lifelong Learning

- On June 4, 2020, congratulations were extended to 32 Rocky View Schools (RVS) staff members who demonstrating leadership in learning for their post-secondary academic accomplishments and/or nomination for the Alberta School Boards Association Edwin Parr Award.

## RVS Student Code of Conduct Affirmed

- After reviewing RVS' Student Code of Conduct for alignment with the new Education Act, the Board of Trustees affirmed no changes are required at this time.
- RVS' Student Code of Conduct outlines a set of desirable personal and interpersonal character traits, such as respect, integrity, empathy, compassion, independence, cooperation, responsibility and self-control.
- Students are expected to learn, practice and model these traits to ensure a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment.

Respectfully Submitted,

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