

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6, 2010

RE: 2010/11 mid-summer budget adjustment

Alberta Education's mid-July budget announcement will bring over \$3.5 million to Rocky View Schools for the 2010/11 school year.

On July 7, 2010, the government increased its per pupil and class size initiative grants by 2.92 percent, announced previously in April as zero percent increase.

"Our Board is very grateful for the additional revenues," said Board Chair Sylvia Eggerer. "It will allow us to turn around some very hard decisions made this past spring – namely reducing services by almost a half percent and running a projected deficit of \$1.1 million."

At a special board meeting, Aug. 5, 2010, Eggerer said the Board infused close to \$2 million into classrooms to increase instructional services.

"Three hundred thousand dollars alone was earmarked to hire resource teachers and assistants, who provide specialized supports to meet the unique needs of students," she said. "Another \$1.6 million was allocated directly to school budgets."

Eggerer said the remaining funds were used to eliminate a projected \$1.1 million deficit for the 2010/11 school year and to increase support staff salaries by 2.92 percent to match the 2010/11 increase for teachers, as defined by an agreement between the provincial government and the Alberta Teachers' Association.

"Last May our budget was built on a zero percent grant increase across the board. As a result, we were forced to freeze support staff salaries.

"These additional revenues will mean we can provide the same salary increase for both of our employee groups for the upcoming school year – a goal the Board works hard to maintain.

"We can breathe a small sigh of relief for now," she said. "It feels good to know the government is acknowledging the importance of education in Alberta."

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