

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2019

### RE: RVS Student Transportation

After a 10-week public transportation consultation was held during the 2017/18 school year to find \$1 million in savings, Rocky View Schools (RVS) is again having to adjust transportation service levels to balance the portfolio's budget.

"The continued escalation of fuel costs, operator costs and other inflationary costs, along with continued growth pressures have left our transportation budget projected to be in the red once again," said RVS' Board Chair Todd Brand. "Anticipating transportation grant revenues will not be increased for the 2019/20 school year, we've no choice but to adjust services and increase fees."

At the Board of Trustees' April 4, 2019, public meeting, Trustees approved several changes to Administrative Procedure 5107: Student Transportation Fees, based on the recommendations of its Transportation Committee. Beginning the 2019/20 school year, families accessing RVS' transportation services will see:

- A five percent increase to fees for resident students who reside within 2.4 km of their school and/or attend a program of choice, raising fees per student from \$294 to \$308;
- A new fee of \$157 for resident students requiring an additional stop location in the a.m., p.m. or both;
- A 19 percent increase for non-resident students accessing a school bus inside RVS' boundaries, raising fees per student from \$472 to \$625;
- A 19 percent increase for non-resident students accessing a school bus outside RVS' boundaries, raising fees per student from \$1050 to \$1,250; and
- Removal of the family maximum, with the first two children in a family paying \$308 each and all additional children paying \$154 each.

In addition to these fee changes, the Board also approved changes to Board Policy 17: Student Transportation, effectively:

- Eliminating all ride-a-longs in the fall, no longer allowing students to accompany a friend to his or her house unless it's their normal bus route; and
- Eliminating urban choice come September, no longer allowing Gr. 5 – 12 urban students to catch any bus to their desired location within the municipality.

"We believe we've made the best of a difficult situation, raising fees slightly for resident students, charging more for services for non-resident students and eliminating services that are no longer affordable," said Brand. "Unless grant revenues increase significantly, we anticipate additional cuts in future years."

Since 2008, transportation grant revenues have increased by only 1.27 percent, while inflation has risen by 18.95 percent. In past years, the Board worked hard to minimize the cost to parents by making efficiencies in its operations and depleting its \$1.8 million transportation reserves to zero.

RVS transportation families will receive a letter home outlining the Board's decision and the individual impact to their family by June 30, 2019.

### For more information contact:

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