

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 24, 2017

RE: Board revises its 2017/2018 Student Transportation Fee Schedule

The Board of Trustees revised Rocky View Schools (RVS) 2017/2018 Student Transportation Fee Schedule, Aug. 24, 2017, bringing fees in line with a cap set by the Minister of Education for the jurisdiction.

“On August 11, our Board received notice from the Minister that our proposed transportation fee of \$325 would not be approved, rather set at a maximum of \$280,” said Board Chair Colleen Munro. “While the Board recognizes this is good news for parents, it further compounds our jurisdiction’s ability to maintain the current level of services offered.”

According to Darrell Couture, Associate Superintendent Business and Operations, transportation funding has not kept pace with increasing cost over the last 10 years, resulting in RVS drawing down its transportation reserves to zero to cover revenue shortfalls.

“When we close this year’s books August 31, we anticipate withdrawing \$530,000 from reserves to get students to and from school; in 2017/2018 it is projected at \$800,000,” Couture said. “While our jurisdiction supports the government’s reduction of fees for families, transportation funding needs to increase and keep pace with inflationary pressures.”

Couture said if the government fails to adequately fund transportation, the jurisdiction will need to identify further efficiencies and/or change service levels for the 2018/2019 school year. He noted the process would be initiated early and involve a public consultation component so parents had plenty of advanced notice and a voice in any potential changes.

“Families who have already paid RVS’ \$325 student transportation fee will be refunded \$45/student in October,” said Couture. “As in previous years, a waiver will be provided to parents who qualify for the GST rebate”.

RVS’ new 2017/2018 Student Transportation Fee Schedule is:

	Per Gr. 1 - 12 Students	Family Maximum
Resident students living less than 2.4 kilometres (as determined by Government of Alberta approved software) from their designated school	\$280	\$560
Resident students transported to a school other than their designated school	\$280	\$560
Students shuttled between Springbank Middle School and Springbank High School	\$280	N/A
Non-resident students accessing a school bus within the boundary of Rocky View Schools and attending either Beiseker, Kathryn, Westbrook, Indus, Crossfield Elementary or W.G. Murdoch schools	\$280	\$560
Non-resident students accessing a school bus within RVS boundary	\$450	N/A
Non-resident students accessing a school bus outside RVS boundary	\$1,000	N/A

As defined by the provincial government's new *An Act to Reduce School Fees* and accompanying regulations, all transportation fee increases are subject to Ministerial approval.

-30-

Further information contact:

Angela Spanier
Director of Communications
403.945.4012