

# Media Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 16, 2010**

## **RE: Rocky View Schools releases its 2011-2014 capital contingency plan**

Provided Alberta Education dedicates capital dollars for three new schools to open by 2014/2015, Rocky View Schools believes it will be able to address its exponential student growth through the construction of two hybrid starter schools and the addition of modular classrooms in key sectors across the jurisdiction.

Presented to the Board of Trustees, Dec. 16, 2010, Rocky View's 2011 – 2014 capital contingency plan addresses a projected enrolment growth of 2335 students by 2014. Assumptions surrounding the success of the plan include receiving almost \$7 million in funding from the province and capital approvals for: a new middle school in Airdrie's Sagewood; a new high school in Airdrie's Prairie Springs and a new K-9 school in Chestermere's Kinnenberg.

"We are confident that students will continue to enjoy learning in facilities that are educationally-appropriate, provided Alberta Education supports the jurisdiction's capital requests," said Board Chair Bruce Pettigrew. "Today our Board committed 100 percent of the future sale proceeds from the former Alberta Transportation building in Airdrie, as well agreed to withdraw \$1.6 million from our capital reserves to help cover the cost of this contingency plan.

"Our goal is to ensure RVS students continue to thrive; we hope to see the same commitment from the province," Pettigrew said.

As outlined in the capital contingency plan, in 2011/12, RVS will add eight modular classrooms: two to Mitford School in Cochrane, four to Nose Creek Elementary in Airdrie, and two at George McDougall High in Airdrie. An internal renovation at Mitford also will be undertaken to create an administrative entity for the Cochrane Christian Program. As well, the purchase of a facility in Airdrie and the construction of a facility in Chestermere will be arranged to support outreach programming.

For 2012/13, a 2200 m<sup>2</sup> hybrid starter school, which includes permanent construction and four modular classrooms, would be erected in Airdrie's Williamstown. This would serve as "phase 1" of a K-8 facility that would eventually be built out to serve 900 students. In 2013/14, a 1600 m<sup>2</sup> hybrid starter school, including permanent construction and eight modular classrooms, would be built in Airdrie's Coopers to serve the needs of K-4 students. Again this hybrid is "phase 1" of the school, which would be built out to serve 600 students.

According to RVS' Superintendent Greg Bass, no commitment by the province by March 2011 would see this contingency plan head back to the drawing table.

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“We’ve few options, but remain optimistic the province will pull through this time,” said Bass. “The Minister already has gone on record to say RVS’ capital needs are the province’s number one priority – it comes down to when the capital monies will come through.”

At the meeting, the 2011-2014 capital contingency plan was approved by the Board. Trustees further directed the Superintendent to hold information sessions with school administrators and the Airdrie Council of School Councils to ensure its school communities are well informed of the plan.

Bass explained that each November, the contingency plan would be reviewed, and if necessary, modified by the Board to reflect actual and/or shifting enrolment numbers.

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