

# Media Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Rocky View Schools questions Springbank private school joining Grande Prairie Public**

Grande Prairie Public School District's Jan. 26, 2010, motion to incorporate a private school located in Springbank into its public education system has raised the concern of Rocky View Schools Board of Trustees as to how a northern jurisdiction could be allowed to operate a school within RVS ward boundaries.

"We were shocked to learn yesterday that Grande Prairie's Board of Trustees entered into an agreement with Edge School to take over its operations in Springbank," said RVS' Board Chair Sylvia Eggerer. "I'm sure other public boards would agree when I say democracy and public education in Alberta took a step backwards today. This agreement is precedent setting in that it will disenfranchise parents from electing a Trustee to serve their children's best interests."

According to Eggerer, Rocky View Schools was never approached by Edge School with a proposal for the private school to join its fold, nor by Grande Prairie Public to state its Board had been approached by Edge to take over its operations. She said had RVS known of the Edge's desire to become a public school, Rocky View's Board certainly would have considered a proposal, as it supports and promotes alternative programming.

"Although we have learned this agreement grew from the Edge's desire to open a sister school in northern Alberta, we are saddened another Alberta public school board would enter into such an agreement before considering the impact it would have on public education as a whole.

"We, too, are surprised our government's policies allow for this kind of agreement to exist," she added.

After the shock wears off Eggerer said RVS' Board would meet in February to review the agreement and determine an appropriate course of action.

In addition to taking over the Edge School in Springbank, Grande Prairie Public School District announced January 25, 2010, it will be opening a new sports school in Grand Prairie in September 2010. See the announcement at: <http://www.gppsd.ab.ca>

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### **For more information contact:**

Angela Spanier  
Director of Communications  
403.945.4012