

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2018

RE: Changes to School Boundaries in SW Airdrie Announced

With the anticipated opening of a new K-8 school in the Airdrie community of Hillcrest in 2019/2020, new school boundaries in the southwest quadrant of the City of Airdrie were approved by Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Board of Trustees, June 21, 2018.

"While we're happy to be able to open schools in new communities, it does not come without its impact to families," said Board Chair Todd Brand. "Over the past three years, several school boundaries across the city have been adjusted to accommodate new student spaces. To ensure minimal disruptions, our Board always asks administration to consult with families in helping to determine boundaries before they are set – Hillcrest was no exception."

Through the process, parents re-affirmed that families believe being able to walk to school is an important consideration, as long as the walking route is safe. Minimizing the number of times a family must transition schools, too, continues to be a priority, as is keeping siblings together. Directing students from neighbouring communities to the same school also should play an important factor, as these students live and play together outside of school hours.

Brand explained that administration's recommendation to trustees was adjusted following a May 22 consultation meeting with families in the area, hearing public delegations at a recent Board meeting and considering written suggestions. "Our record as a Board consistently demonstrates that we take input from our communities seriously and we use that input to help guide our decisions. We place tremendous value on what we hear through our public engagement."

Based on student enrolment projections and feedback from community members, Director of Planning Colette Winter said the Board approved the following accommodation plan, effective September 2019, for schools in southwest Airdrie:

- Students residing in the communities of Prairie Springs, Windsong, and the portion of South Windsong located north and along Windford Drive SW and Windrow Link SW will be designated to Windsong Heights School.
- Students residing in the communities of Hillcrest, Southpoint, and new families to RVS who reside in the community of South Windsong located south of Windford Drive and Windrow Link SW will be designated to attend the new school in Hillcrest.
- Students currently attending Windsong Heights, who reside south of Windford Drive and Windrow Link SW, will have the option to remain at Windsong Heights, with transportation provided until 2027 or until a new school is open in the South Windsong community.
- Students residing in the communities of Cooper's Crossing and Morningside will be designated to attend Cooper's Crossing School (K-5) and the new school in Hillcrest (Grade 6-8).

Changes to School Boundaries in SW Airdrie Announced - 2

Winter explained that to minimize the number of transitions, students who reside in the communities of Cooper's Crossing, Morningside, Hillcrest and Southpoint and who are in Grades 7 and 8 as of September 2019 will be able to continue at Windsong Heights School until they attend high school.

The 2019/2020 attendance boundaries for Windsong Heights, Cooper's Crossing, and the new school in Hillcrest will be posted to the jurisdiction's website under Schools/Attendance Areas in coming weeks.

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