

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: RVS remains committed to providing its students with a high calibre education

A preliminary review of the province's 2017/18 education budget has Rocky View Schools' (RVS) revealing some good news and bad news for the jurisdiction.

"The government's decision to continue to fund enrolment growth is a relief to our growing jurisdiction," said Associate Superintendent of Business and Operations Darrell Couture. "As one of the fastest growing school jurisdictions in Alberta, we will welcome over 1000 additional students in the fall, and now know we'll be able to hire the teachers needed to serve those students. While we celebrate this fact, it should really be the norm, not the exception."

According to Couture, for the 2017/18 school year all funding rates remain the same as 2016/17, except for Infrastructure, Maintenance and Renewal (IMR) Funding where RVS anticipates receiving \$730,000 in additional revenues to help address the backlog of school building maintenance projects.

"If Bill 1 is passed, Rocky View Schools also will receive \$3.5 million to offset the elimination of instructional resource fees and school bus fees for those living 2.4 km or greater from their designated schools," said Couture. "The bad news for us is that funding for this envelope is based on RVS' 2015/16 enrolment profile - meaning the jurisdiction will need to find over \$254,000 as it will serve over 2,200 more students than it did in 2015/16."

Couture also noted that although the Alberta Government does not provide funding to transport students less than 2.4 km from their designated school, RVS' administration will be bringing a proposal forward to continue transportation services to these families for a fee. Fees will be considered at an upcoming board meeting.

"The cost of the carbon levy, too, will need to be absorbed by the jurisdiction to the tune of \$165K for natural gas and \$300K for school bus diesel fuel," said Couture. "However, overall the Board anticipates minimal disruptions to the classroom."

In early March Couture said the Board established its key priorities – all of which related to preserving direct services to students.

Rocky View's 2017/18 budget is expected to be tabled with the Board sometime in late spring.

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