

# Media Release



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 27, 2018**

### **RE: Board of Trustees seeks explanation of no new capital projects on provincial list**

As one of the fastest growing school divisions in Alberta, Rocky View Schools (RVS) was disappointed Friday that no new schools were announced for the jurisdiction by the Government of Alberta.

“With an annual enrolment growth of 1000 students, our school division needs two new schools opening each and every year to ensure we have the space for students to learn,” said Board Chair Todd Brand. “The reality is that our growth is rapidly outpacing the construction of new space. The decision not to allocate any new schools to our division is difficult to understand. While we applaud the many positive initiatives the province has made for students and families, we cannot solve our growing classroom space crisis without the government’s support.”

Brand explained that the southeast sector of the jurisdiction, which includes the Hamlet of Langdon and City of Chestermere, will reach 100 percent capacity by 2020. The Board was disappointed its number one priority – a school in Langdon – was not announced March 23, as it would have relieved the pressure off schools in Chestermere, which will climb to 107 percent capacity by the time the new school would have opened in 2020.

He also noted that no design funding was announced for RVS, outlining that this would have allowed the division to begin design work to speed up the building process once capital funding is made available.

“Without school construction approved for RVS in Alberta’s 2018/19 Capital Budget, we are faced with an even higher facility utilization and space shortage in the coming years,” said Brand. “Although a new school in the Airdrie community of Hillcrest is slated to open in the 2019/20 school year, it will only provide short-term relief in one specific area and does not resolve or address the ongoing needs of our entire jurisdiction.”

Brand said the Board of Trustees has, and will continue to, vigorously advocate for the students and families of RVS, and remains hopeful that the Government of Alberta will approve additional capital projects for RVS in the next few months.

-30-

#### **Further information contact:**

Lily Habberfield  
Manager of Communications  
403.945.4144