

Media Release



March 7, 2019

RE: Board of Trustees secures viability of Prince of Peace Lutheran School

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Board of Trustees voted, March 7, 2019, to accept SAGE Properties' five-year lease agreement with an 18-month termination clause, subject to approval of the lease by SAGE's Directors. The Board also voted to close the school, effective June 30, 2019, if SAGE Properties does not approve the lease by March 18, 2019.

"Our Board is relieved to have voted to accept a satisfactory lease with SAGE Properties," said Board Chair Todd Brand. "We still have to consider that SAGE's Directors have yet to approve the lease, that it carries an 18-month termination clause and the property owners intend to sell the building, meaning a long-term solution is required."

Brand explained that since 2006, RVS has been leasing the school to provide an alternative faith-based program to Chestermere and area students. In 2016, the owners of the school, the Lutheran Church Canada Alberta-British Columbia District Church Extension Fund and District Investments Ltd., were granted protection against bankruptcy. Currently under the management of SAGE Properties, the current mandate is to subdivide the property and sell the building. With RVS' lease set to expire on Aug. 31, 2019, the Board launched a public consultation in October 2018 to explore the viability of relocating the Prince of Peace Lutheran School program and/or fulfill the required process established by government related to school closure.

"At the will of our stakeholders, we actively pursued a lease to buy us some time to find a permanent home for this alternative program," said Brand. "Although achieved, given a new school in the City of Chestermere is at least three years out, and considering the space pressures in the Chestermere area, we will begin to reduce the number of students at the school."

At its March 7, 2019, Board meeting, Trustees also voted in favour of not allowing any new non-resident students to be accepted at the school.

"Although not ideal, I want our Prince of Peace community to know this decision was very hard for our Board of Trustees," said Brand. "We spent many hours consulting with the public and even more hours in meetings looking for a solution to maintain the viability of the school – and at least for the near future, we found one."

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