

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2017

RE: Board sets 2017/18 Student Transportation Fees

The Board of Trustees approved Rocky View Schools (RVS) 2017/2018 Student Transportation Fees, May 4, 2017.

Anticipating *Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees* will be approved before the Legislative Assembly's Spring Session ends on May 31, 2017, the Board reluctantly agreed to increase its fees for riders not covered under the Bill, namely those who live less than 2.4 km from their designated school or attend a non-designated school.

"While our Board supports the government's intent to reduce school fees, we were forced to decide whether we eliminate services altogether for students living closer than 2.4 km from their designated school and students attending non-designated schools or raise our fees," said Board Chair Colleen Munro. "Further compounding this dilemma is that the transportation portfolio has been severely underfunded since 2008."

Munro explained that not including RVS' 2017 \$160,000 carbon tax levy increase, transportation operating costs currently are \$1 million higher than the revenues provided.

"Each year our Board has struggled to balance the transportation budget by finding operating efficiencies and making minimal fee increases. Last year, we even slashed our transportation reserves by \$600,000 to get students to and from school."

"Now that Bill 1 will provide funding for only those students living greater than 2.4 km from their designated school, unfortunately our fees for ineligible students must go up," she said.

"As in previous years, the Board voted to maintain a waiver for parents who qualify for the GST rebate," she said.

According to Darrell Couture, Associate Superintendent Business and Operations, RVS' 2017/18 Student Transportation Fee Schedule illustrates fee increases for resident students ranging from \$95 - \$105 to:

	Applicable Students	Family Maximum
a) Transportation fee for resident students living less than 2.4 kilometres (as determined by Government of Alberta approved software) from their designated school	\$325	\$650
b) Transportation fee for resident students transported to a school other than their designated school	\$325	\$650
c) Transportation fee for students shuttled between Springbank Middle School and Springbank High School	\$325	N/A
d) Transportation fee for non-resident students accessing a school bus within the boundary of Rocky View Schools and attending either Beiseker, Kathryn, Westbrook, Indus, Crossfield Elementary or W.G. Murdoch schools	\$325	\$650
e) Transportation fee for non-resident students excepting those students outlined in point (e) above:		
i) Non-resident students accessing a school bus within RVS boundary	\$450	N/A
ii) Non-resident students accessing a school bus outside RVS boundary	\$1,000	N/A

As defined by Alberta Education, designated school refers to the regular program school the Board has directed the student to attend. Schools of choice, chosen for the additional programming offered, are not considered to be designated schools. As such French Immersion or other language or cultural immersion, sports academies, faith based, art, science, traditional learning or International Baccalaureate programs/schools are not considered by Alberta Education to be designated schools.

RVS' Student Transportation Fee Schedule will be posted to the Board's website shortly.

Further information contact:

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