

# Media Release



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **RVS makes budget challenges its opportunity to shine**

As the provincial government sorts out how to address \$2 billion of its deficit for the 2010 fiscal year, Rocky View Schools is opting to forge ahead with its own plans to cut an anticipated \$8 - \$10 million in provincial grants for the 2010/2011 school year.

“Our Board has decided to put this time to good use by planning how we will respond to the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners within a new fiscal reality”, said Greg Bass, RVS’ Superintendent of Schools. “Although we do not know what the reductions will be, we believe that by planning ahead our jurisdiction can identify and implement efficient, effective, and innovative operational practices that will allow us to achieve the outcomes in our progressive Three Year Plan.”

Over the months of October and November, Rocky View’s Senior Executive has charged school communities, Education Centre Departments and the Board with developing budget scenarios based on a 3 percent, 7 percent and 10 percent reduction of their 2009/10 budget. Due into the Superintendent’s Office Nov. 30, 2009, the scenarios will be forwarded to the Superintendent’s Working Committee on Budget and Allocation to identify reduction trends and best practices. Following a further review by Rocky View’s Leadership team, which is comprised of all school and system administrators, the trends and list of best practices will be used by the Board of Trustees and Senior Executive in their budget deliberations in April 2010.

“Principals and supervisors were provided a budget information package to share with their staff and school councils,” said Bass. “RVS also is holding an Employee Budget Information Meeting at 3 pm on Oct. 23, 2009, in the Education Centre’s Wild Rose Room, for any staff member wanting to learn about the anticipated budget reduction and the jurisdiction’s approach to addressing these challenges.

“This process reflects 21<sup>st</sup> Century thinking, where as role models for our students and school communities, we are living up to our mission statement by demonstrating our ability to “understand, adapt and successfully contribute to our changing global community”.

“In short, we are determined to make this budget challenge our opportunity to shine,” said Bass.

Bass encourages all parents to attend their upcoming School Council meeting to learn of RVS’ approach and to provide input into next year’s operations.

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### **For more information contact:**

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