

Media Release



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RE: RVS transforms classrooms into creative, inspired learning spaces

What's in store for Rocky View Schools' (RVS) digital natives this year?

"Students want real-life learning activities that are rich, meaningful, and relevant to the world in which they live," said Associate Superintendent of Learning Dave Morris. "After three years of re-tooling our educational practices, we've made great headway in transforming many of our classrooms into creative, inspired learning spaces. Our goal this year is to begin replicating the exemplary practices scattered across the jurisdiction; as coined by our new Three Year Plan, we aim to build the Power to Enrich."

Approved in June, RVS' 2011-2014 Three Year Plan topped the Board of Trustees' Sept. 1, 2011, Meeting Agenda, where Superintendent of Schools Greg Bass tabled an abbreviated paper version, explaining that a copy of the poster size document would be distributed to every staff member, school council, and educational partner in the jurisdiction.

"From the Board room to the classroom, this plan is what will drive our efforts over the next three years," he said. "Trustees can expect it to remain front and centre at their meetings through a new quarterly accountability framework that will provide Trustees with a rich, sound, data-driven analysis of the plan's implementation."

Based on the feedback of over 1,000 parents, students, staff, business leaders and community members, who participated in a five-month community engagement process last Spring, the plan outlines four goals, 16 outcomes, 60 performance measures, and 64 strategies, centered on meeting the individual needs of all learners, building 21st C competencies, enriching instructional design and transforming RVS into a 21st C organization.

"Outside of building students' critical thinking skills, foundation and social skills, digital citizenry and sense of community, one of the more aggressive strategies outlines our intent to transition all Grade 5 – 12 students to a one-to-one format, through both personal and jurisdictional devices," said Bass. "The last three years has taught us that technology affords us the ability to engineer co-creative learning spaces, whereby teachers and student can build understanding together – it's key to student engagement."

According to Bass, Trustees also will manage a strategy that aims to bring together representatives from all walks of life to have a hand in student success through the development of a new generative governance model.

"Success for students of the 21st Century requires a community approach," said Bass. "It's imperative society as a whole steps up to the plate to help our education system prepare our future leaders to build economically strong and vibrant communities."

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RVS transforms classrooms

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To kick off the launch of RVS' 2011-2014 Three Year Plan, Bass said the jurisdiction has prepared a video entitled "RVS' Digital Natives".

"The video aims to help build an awareness of our vision to move students from Grade 5 – 12 to one-to-one learning environments, as well as outlines the learning needs of our students," Bass said. "I encouraged Trustees to share the link to this video, accessible via RVS' website at www.rockyview.ab.ca under "What's New", with their ward residents and school communities."

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