



**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD AT THE EDUCATION CENTRE
2651 CHINOOK WINDS DRIVE S. W.
AIRDRIE, ALBERTA**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2009

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Chair, Ward 3	Sylvia Eggerer
Vice-Chair, Ward 1	Jennifer Avery
Ward 2	Bev LaPeare
Ward 4	Helen Clease
Ward 5	Colleen Munro
Ward 6	Dr. Bruce Pettigrew
Ward 7	Don Thomas

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Superintendent of Schools	Greg Bass
Associate Superintendent of Business and Operations	Darrell Couture
Associate Superintendent of Learning	Dr. David Peat
Associate Superintendent of Schools	Murray Besenski
Associate Superintendent of Human Resources	Susan Williams
Director of Communications	Angela Spanier
Executive Assistant	Karen Dolynny

RECORDING SECRETARY:

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Sylvia Eggerer called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA:

#225 – 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE DON THOMAS:

That the Board of Trustees approves the October 1, 2009, Regular Board meeting agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING:

#226 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:

That the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 17, 2009, with the following amendments:

Trustee Bev LaPeare Board Report:

- September 9 – Meetings at Prince of Peace, Chestermere Lake Middle School, Rainbow Creek and Prairie Waters School

Trustee Jennifer Avery Board Report:

- Town of Irricana has newly renovated their library which is now a state of the art facility

CARRIED

Rocky View School Division No. 41

Chair – Board of Trustees

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

INFORMATION

2008/2009 PROVINCIAL TESTING RESULTS

Alberta Education's Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) and Diploma Exams help schools and jurisdictions monitor student performance in relation to provincial standards for a wide variety of skills and competencies as outlined in the Ministry's Programs of Study. For teachers, these assessments provide valuable feedback on program strengths and weaknesses, the effectiveness of instructional techniques and student comprehension levels. For post-secondary institutions, diploma marks serve as an entry-measurement for accepting potential students.

Alberta Education expects 85 percent of students should meet an acceptable standard on both Achievement Tests and Diploma Exams. This indicates that students are achieving the basic standards for passing the course. The province further expects 15 percent of students will achieve a standard of excellence. This measure indicates that students are achieving an excellent level of competency in the area of study examined.

It should be noted that these assessments provide only part of the overall picture concerning the performance of a school jurisdiction's students. Although provincial assessments are designed to assess the achievement of provincial standards, many important learning outcomes cannot be measured by time-limited paper-and-pencil tests. In addition, many factors contribute to student achievement. Wherever possible, information about a particular school's results should be obtained from the school. Further, Rocky View Schools does not endorse the production or publication of rank order lists of results.

The following report provides an overview of Rocky View Schools' 2008/09 student performance on provincial achievement tests in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies and for Diploma Exams in English, Social, Math, Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Science. Although it is not possible to directly compare the average scores on these provincial assessments across years, results for the past five years are provided as a means of identifying trends both in Rocky View Schools' results and as compared with provincial standards. .

Actual results for these tests and exams can be found on the RVS website at:

<http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/assets/ourboardandpolicies/boardagendasandminutes/board-agendas/board-agenda-10-01-2009.pdf>

#227 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE DON THOMAS:

That the Board of Trustees receives as information Rocky View Schools' Accountability Progress Report on 2009 Provincial Testing Results.

CARRIED

2009 SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

Implementation of Rocky View School's (RVS) "made in Rocky View" Three Year Plan (2008-2011) is a top priority for the jurisdiction. The Board of Trustees believes that through the plan its school communities share a forward-thinking vision, which is serving to unify and synergize school communities across the jurisdiction in creating 21st Century learning environments.

To ensure the integrity and the effectiveness of its new 3YP, in June 2009, RVS administered three satisfaction surveys as a means of evaluating its progress towards achieving the desired, progressive outcomes, outlined in the plan. Online surveys were administered with all staff and all students in grades 4 - 12. Through Rocky View Schools' public website and school websites, all parents also were invited to participate in the jurisdiction's first annual satisfaction survey.

In total, 1,000 surveys were completed by staff, 7,201 by students and 1,569 by parents, for a total of 9,770 surveys completed. The surveys were submitted to Schollie and Associates for analysis in June 2009. Rocky View Schools received individual school results reports and a comprehensive jurisdictional report in late August, 2009.

The following report provides an overview of Rocky View Schools' Satisfaction Survey Results for the 2008/09 school year. Actual results for the three surveys can be found in Appendix A.

OVERVIEW OF RESULTS

- **Welcoming and Safe Atmosphere** - The vast majority of RVS stakeholders perceived the jurisdiction as offering a welcoming and safe learning environment. Between 86 and 91 percent of respondents said they feel welcomed at their school/workplace. Correspondingly, between 81 and 95 percent of students, parents, and staff stated they are satisfied with the safety of the school/workplace.
- **Work Environment** – A high percentage of staff like working for Rocky View Schools! An outstanding 93 percent of respondents indicated satisfaction that their school and Rocky View Schools are good places to work.
- **Caring and Respectful Atmosphere** - Schools' diligence in building caring, respectful relationships within the school community is perceived positively by parents and staff. Eighty-five (85%) percent of parents and 95 percent of staff expressed satisfaction that there is a caring atmosphere in school and that respectful relationships are encouraged amongst all staff and/or students. An area for improvement lies with students' perceptions in these areas. Only 69 percent believe students and adults show respect for one another, while only 77 percent said the school staff care about students and only 58 percent said students care about each other at their school.
- **Parental Involvement** - Schools are to be applauded for the high degree of satisfaction with parental involvement at their schools. Eighty-four (84%) percent of parents responding to RVS' survey believe they have opportunities to be involved in school decision-making processes, while 89 percent believe they have the opportunity to be involved in school activities. Eighty-nine (89%) of staff members also stated they believe their school council plays a meaningful role in their school.
- **Meeting the Needs of All Learners** - Understanding of RVS' new continuum of services delivery model has begun to build, but still needs to be an area of focus in 2009/10, with only 71 percent of parents and 72 percent of staff agreeing the needs of all learners are being met. Schools also will need to delve into why only 65 percent of students believe teachers are making their classes interesting and only 72 percent stating that teachers use a variety of ways to help them learn.

- **21st Century Learners** - A high degree of parents and staff feel schools are preparing their students for the 21st Century. Eighty-six (86%) of parents and 92 percent of staff expressed satisfaction that students are learning to become critical, creative, and complex thinkers.
- **IPP Goals/Access to Support Services** - An area to be reviewed is the variance in satisfaction between parents and staff regarding students' success in meeting their Individual Program Plan goals. Eighty-four (84%) of staff stated students were meeting their IPP goals, while only 72 percent of parents agreed their child was meeting these goals. Survey respondents' perception towards access to support services also needs to be reviewed by the Learning Department, as only 73 percent of parents and 74 percent of staff expressed satisfaction with students' access to support services.
- **Assessment** - The degree in which parents and students feel informed of student progress and the school's assessment practices are areas for improvement at the school level, as satisfaction levels relating to assessment fell between 69 to 76 percent in these two groups.
- **Transitioning** - Ninety (90%) percent of staff and 82 percent of parents are highly satisfied with the transition assistance students received as they move from one grade to another. Eighty-four (84%) of parents also agreed that their child was well prepared for their present grade.
- **Technology** – The use of technology as an instructional tool is gaining great momentum with 81 percent of students and 79 percent of staff indicating satisfaction with the use of technology in their school. Staff would like greater access to emerging technologies as indicated by only 76 percent satisfied with the availability of technology at their school.
- **Citizenship & Environmentalism** - Parents and staff are highly satisfied with schools' preparation of students in the areas of citizenship and social responsibility. Satisfaction levels in these two groups ranges from 85 to 95 percent!
- **Career Preparation** - Parents and students looking to the future would like further assistance in accessing information regarding life choices and university and post-secondary options, as only 74 percent of parents and 70 to 76 percent of students in Grades 10 to 12 expressed satisfaction in regards to these topics.
- **Professional Learning** – Rocky View's Communities of Practice and professional learning activities are greatly appreciated by staff with 90 percent of staff stating that professional learning has positively impacted their instruction and/or organizational effectiveness.

EVALUATION

Rocky View Schools' first annual satisfaction survey results reveal a great degree of satisfaction among parents and staff towards the new direction of the jurisdiction, as defined by its 2008-2011 Three Year Plan. To serve as baseline measures, many of the results have already exceeded the jurisdiction's global target of 90 percent, indicating that much success has already been achieved in the first year of the plan's implementation.

Specific areas of improvement by stakeholder groups include:

Parents - Assessment practices, student support services, student career preparation

Staff – Technology, student support services

Students – Respect of peers, assessment practices, career/life planning.

WORK AHEAD

SARR Reviews: RVS' expectations regarding satisfaction levels needs to be communicated and reviewed with school administrators during their forthcoming School Annual Results Report meetings. Specific school targets will need to be defined and agreed to for the 2009/10 school year; subsequently, any modifications to each school's School Education Plan will need to be outlined.

Department Reviews: In coming weeks RVS' Senior Executive and Directors will review the jurisdiction's comprehensive satisfaction survey results to identify modifications required to improve satisfaction results. These modifications will be highlighted in RVS' 2008/09 Annual Education Results Report.

Full survey results may be found on the RVS website at:

<http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/assets/ourboardandpolicies/boardagendasandminutes/board-agendas/board-agenda-10-01-2009.pdf>

#228 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:

That the Board of Trustees receives as information the Accountability Progress Report on Rocky View Schools' 2008/09 Satisfaction Survey.

CARRIED

EDUCATION CENTRE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

REPORTING PERIOD

2008-09 School Year

SUMMARY

Education Centre Resource Management is the allocation and maximized use of human and monetary resources. The launch of our three-year plan calling for the transformation into a 21st Century Learning organization was very successful. The financial and human resource planning in the spring, 2009, was once again completed with this vision in mind.

WORK COMPLETED

Budget dollars were allocated in a manner consistent with, where possible, support for the 3YP. The deployment of laptops to teaching staff, for example, was completed within existing ever-greening dollars augmented by a provincial grant. The learning department was once again restructured to maximize school support.

WORK REMAINING

As we plan for significant budget reductions this year in preparation for the 2010-11 school year, an unfettered commitment to advancing our 3YP must be maintained. The hard cost to continued progression of our plan is minimal, with maximizing collaborative structures within the system to share the human resource work load.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS

In addition to the technological infrastructure advancement of 2008-09, much work was completed on evaluation/growth models, assessment policy and procedure, formation of communities of practice in support of 3YP outcomes, Superintendent Working Committee mandates in alignment with strategies in the 3YP, and AISI cycle 4 alignment with our plan.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

Once again, significant financial challenges are in our future which will impact both financial and human resource support for initiatives. Our greatest challenge is in emerging stronger than we are now and having structures in place that continue the support of the advancement of the Board's vision.

EVALUATION OF WORK

Overall, 2008-09 was another exciting year. Much growth occurred across our system and thoughtful planning will provide for a 2009-10 school year that continues to move us toward our collective goal.

#229 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:

That the Board of Trustees receives as information Rocky View's Accountability Progress Report on Education Centre Resource Management.

CARRIED

Board Correspondence

Canadian Student Leadership Conference

More than 900 student delegates from across Canada are traveling to southern Alberta, to embrace the legacy of leadership at the 25th Canadian Student Leadership Conference, co-hosted by Chinook's Edge and Rocky View Schools, from September 29, 2009 – October 9, 2009.

School Council Professional Learning

Saturday, October 3, 2009, Education Centre

Rocky View Schools, under the direction of Angela Spanier, Director of Communications, is hosting a School Council Professional Learning Conference focusing on:

- Accountability & School Councils (For School Council Secretaries) - Superintendent's Office
- Creating School Council Bylaws - Alberta School Councils Association
- ASCA Kick Start - Alberta School Councils Association
- Becoming an Effective Leader (For School Council Chairs) - School's Department
- School Council Webportal - Communications Department

Board Sponsored Awards

Rocky View Schools will continue to work towards defining RVS's Board Sponsored Award which was initiated in the 2008/2009 school year.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bev LaPeare Reported:

- September 17 - Attended Planning and Regular Board meeting
- September 17 - Attended Rainbow Creek School Council meeting
- September 19 – Participated in a 12 km race around Lake Chestermere – Fundraiser for Library.
- September 21 – Attended Indus School Council AGM
- September 23 – Attended Interagency Luncheon at Chestermere Town Hall
- September 23 – Attended Chestermere Lake Middle School Council meeting
- September 23 – Took part in Agenda Review
- September 25 – Attended the Terry Fox Run and BBQ at Chestermere High School
- September 29 – Attended Healthy Community Initiatives Meeting at Chestermere Town Hall
- September 29 – Attended Chestermere Conrich Regional Rec Board meeting
- September 30 – Attended 2 Student Expulsion hearings
- October 1 – Attended Planning, Organizational and Regular Board meetings

Helen Clease:

- September 23 – Attended Gift Protocol meeting at the Education Centre
- September 23 – Attended Benefits Committee meeting at the Education Centre
- September 23 – Attended Awards Committee meeting at the Education Centre
- September 24 – Meet the Staff at Springbank Community High School
- September 28 – Attended Springbank Park for All Seasons Annual General meeting
- September 29 – Attended Zone 5 ASBA Executive meeting
- September 29 – Attended Canadian Student Leadership Opening Ceremonies , Olds, AB
- September 30 – Attended Student Expulsion Hearing meeting at the Education Centre
- October 1 – Attended Board Planning, Organizational and Board meetings

Colleen Munro:

- July 28 – Attended Student Placement Appeal committee
- August 19 – Attended Links to Learning Golf Tournament
- August 20 – Attended Labour Relations Committee meeting
- August 27 – Attended Board Planning meeting
- September 4 – Attended ASBA Zone 5 meeting
- September 8 – Attended Westbrook Meet the Teacher night
- September 9 – Attended Bearspaw Recreation Board meeting
- September 9 – Attended Bearspaw School Council
- September 10 – Attended Cochrane High School Council meeting
- September 10 – Attended Manachaban School Council meeting
- September 17 – Attended Board Planning and Regular Board meetings
- September 18 – Attended Bearspaw Spirit Week Wind-up Assembly
- September 28 – Attended Labour Relations Committee meeting
- September 20 – Attended Canadian Student Leadership Conference Opening Ceremonies in Olds, AB
- September 3 – Attended Westbrook School Council meeting
- October 1 – Attended Board Planning, Organizational and Board meetings

Don Thomas:

- Will be absent from mid October to December, 2009. Chair Sylvia Eggerer will support Ward 7 during this time.

IN - CAMERA:**#230 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BEV LAPEARE:**

That the Board of Trustees moves into in-camera at 2:53 p.m..

CARRIED

#231 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE JENNIFER AVERY :

That the Board of Trustees moves out of in-camera at 3:36 p.m.

CARRIED

ITEMS FROM IN - CAMERA:

#232 – 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:

That the Board of Trustees approves Rocky View Schools' submission for the Alberta School Boards Association 2009 Friends of Education Award.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

#233 - 09 MOTION BY TRUSTEE BRUCE PETTIGREW:

That the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY-TREASURER