

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

May 26, 2022

Exemplary Practice Highlights Social Justice and Indigenous Studies Courses at Bert Church High School

- Bert Church High School (BCHS) teacher Jennifer Williams has been piloting a Social Justice class that encourages students to explore important topics. Some of these topics have included the experience of Asian Canadians, the history and current issues faced by Black Canadians, feminism, ableism, and the history and current issues faced by the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Through class discussions and inquiry projects, students explore their views and how they can make a difference.
- As an act of Reconcili-Action, BCHS also reintroduced Indigenous Studies courses in which students research various cultures and their history including exploring the history and culture of the Métis, the impact of treaties and other legislation, and the legacy of residential schools. The focus of the courses is on inquiry and exploration of personal views based on historical and current events.
- BCHS has also begun to develop plans to build a reconciliation garden on the school's grounds. Input of Indigenous elders into the design and process will be integral. The project involves students from across the school, including Indigenous Studies, art, construction, biology and foods classes. A long-term project, the garden is expected to be built out within four to five years.

2022/23 Operating Budget Focused on Providing World-Class Education for Students

- The Rocky View Schools Board of Trustees (the Board) has approved the 2022/23 operating budget with a focus on providing students with the skills and opportunities they need to learn and succeed.
- To help provide a world-class education to the more than 27,000 students in RVS, the Board has approved spending \$300.9 million with most of the budget going directly to schools in areas such as classroom and school staffing, inclusion supports, specialized pre-Kindergarten learning supports, mental health and wellness for students and staff, and school-based supplies and resources.
- RVS will utilize reserves to provide schools with funds to address the disruption in learning and student wellbeing impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Other reserve funds will be used to address inflationary pressures across the organization, to continue our specialized pre-Kindergarten learning programs despite lower grants from government and to maintain funding in schools.
 - To ensure students continue to receive the education and supports the Board believes students greatly deserve, it feels it is necessary to use reserve funds to support important school-based programs and initiatives.
 - This budget reflects the Board's dedication to RVS' students, parents/guardians and staff to provide the best education RVS can offer.
 - Operating reserves at the end of the 2022/23 school year are projected to be 2.7 per cent of the total operating budget, well within guidance from government.
- \$2 million will be targeted in 2022/23 for additional supports related to student wellbeing, supports for mental health, and supports to address student learning that was disrupted during the pandemic.

- As part of RVS' commitment to division-wide learning of Indigenous ways of knowing and being, this budget will fund the creation of a new Indigenous Education branch within the Learning department to support all students including specific supports for Indigenous students.

Congratulations to the RVS Graduating Class of 2022

- Trustees offered their congratulations to the graduating class of 2022 during the May 26 Board meeting.
- For the first time since spring 2019, RVS high schools will celebrate the achievements of graduates with in-person ceremonies in May and June.
- In RVS there are more than 1,800 Grade 12 potential graduates across the division this year.
- The first graduates of Summit Trails Online High School also celebrated their achievement during an in-person ceremony on May 25. Summit Trails is one of two online schools opened by RVS in September 2021. There are 65 students from across the division graduating from the school this year.

Cochrane Tri-school Field Improvement Project Moves Another Important Step Forward

- The Board has authorized administration to move forward with the Request for Proposal and external funding agreements associated with the proposed Cochrane tri-school artificial turf project.
- The Cochrane Track and Field Association (CTFA) – the group fundraising for the project – has raised the full amount required for the artificial turf field, \$2.4 million, through a combination of grants, donations and other fundraising efforts.
- The intent is for the new artificial turf field to be ready for use by all three schools (Cochrane High, Manachaban Middle and Elizabeth Barrett Elementary) as well as community use when not needed by the schools this fall.