

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Oct. 5, 2023

Students Show They Have What It Takes at Level Up Calgary Competition

- Rocky View Schools (RVS) students from seven schools were invited to compete in the Level Up Calgary season 2 competition, which ran from February through June 2023. The students competed against their peers from the Calgary Board of Education and Calgary Catholic School Division, coming home with numerous medals.
- Approximately 500 RVS students took part in the competition which involved designing virtual sustainable public spaces using Minecraft.
- Teachers and learning specialists involved in the design challenge shared their experiences with the Board of Trustees (the Board), and students who won in the four divisions of the challenge reflected on their learning.
- The students enjoyed using Minecraft as a tool for learning, experiencing collaboration, creative thinking and problem-solving while working on their projects.
- The challenge was enhanced by the participation of local officials – municipal mayors, local Elders, etc. – and use of real-life spaces in Calgary.

Significant Enrolment Growth in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere Continues to Add Nearly 1,000 More Students

- Total enrolment across the division as of Sept. 30 is 28,602 for the current school year, up 990 or 3.6 per cent from 2022/23. This is consistent with the existing trend in the division which sees enrolment increase by 750-1,000 students per year.
- Rising enrolment is occurring at all grade levels and in most RVS communities.
- The overall utilization rate of all RVS schools is 93 per cent, up from 87 per cent in 2022/23.
- The three larger municipalities within RVS' jurisdiction are all experiencing continuous population growth, which is reflected in rising enrolment in all schools in Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane.
 - Of the 990 new RVS students, 499 or 50.4 per cent are in Airdrie. This is an increase of 158 per cent from 2003 to 2023. The current average utilization of all three of Airdrie's high schools is 110 per cent; with no new schools approved or opening in Airdrie, by 2027, this will increase to 130 per cent.
 - Chestermere schools are 98 per cent utilized overall. With a new junior/senior high school slated to open in Langdon in September 2024, pressure on the city's schools will likely see some relief.
 - Cochrane continues to see growth, particularly at the high school level where both schools are more than 100 per cent utilized.

RVS Teachers Recognized for Exceptional Work on World Teachers' Day

- World Teachers' Day is held annually to celebrate the work of teachers across the globe. On behalf of the Board, Board Chair, Fiona Gilbert thanked the approximately 1,500 RVS teachers for the important and exceptional work they do every day to support our students.

Space for Students Continues to be Focus of Board Advocacy

- RVS continues to experience overcrowding in many of its schools, particularly in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere. Rising enrolment and a lack of approval for construction funding for new facilities have caused a challenging situation and many schools in these communities are overutilized.
- A year-long advocacy plan was launched in 2022/23 to bring attention to these issues and to advocate to the provincial government for the much-needed new schools identified in the division's capital plan. The Board and RVS' Communications department will continue to implement strategies to bring attention to RVS' critical need for additional schools in 2023/24 with the goal of securing full construction funding for the four schools that received planning and design funding in 2022/23, as well as three other schools needed in Airdrie, Springbank and Cochrane in Budget 2024 to have them built as soon as possible.
- Securing many more modular classrooms as temporary spaces will also be front and centre in these efforts.
- RVS' 2022/23 Space for Students Advocacy Plan has been honoured by the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) with a BRAVO! Award. The award recognizes exemplary work in the areas of communications, public relations, marketing and engagement and will be presented during the annual CACE conference in Montreal at the end of October.

Annual Review Leads to Changes to Three Policies

- The Board Policy Committee is tasked with reviewing policies of the Board on an ad hoc basis to ensure these continue to reflect the intentions of the Board.
- Reviews of Policy 19 - Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environment, Policy 22 - Community Use of School Facilities and Equipment and Policy 23 - School Attendance Areas resulted in minor changes to wording for clarity and to ensure the policies align with new legislation or regulations.
- Board policies determine how the division will operate and provide effective direction for the action of the Board, Superintendent, staff, students and stakeholders. The policies are posted online at www.rockyview.ab.ca/about_rvs/policies_procedures/board_policies

Ad hoc Committee to Plan and Deliver Conference Presentation

- The Board submitted a proposal to present on Onboarding for School Board Success at the National School Boards Association conference and recently learned its submission was accepted by the association.
- An ad hoc committee of the Board has been struck to plan, develop and deliver the presentation at the conference in April 2024.

Board Connects with School Councils to Support Their Work

- About 20 school council members attended an orientation session on Sept. 27 with trustees and Superintendent Luterbach. The session is intended to support school councils by providing them with information and engaging in dialogue. The presentation is available on the [RVS website](#).
- School council executive are invited to join the Board Oct. 26 to meet as an opportunity to connect and learn from each other. These meetings happen twice annually and continue to be valuable for sharing information and building relationships.