

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Dec. 14, 2023

CCA Reads Advances Student Literacy Skills by Encouraging Reading at Home

- Students at Cochrane Christian Academy (CCA) are being encouraged to discover a love for reading through a program introduced at the school in the fall by the school's literacy team.
- CCA Reads aims to get students reading outside the classroom and to help them develop a love of reading by choosing books they are interested in, rather than books they are assigned.
- Students track how often they choose to read outside school hours. For every 25 nights they accumulate, they win a prize. A coveted prize is the ability to have Pizza with the Principal once the student has accumulated 150 nights.
- Since the program began in the fall, there has been an increase in the number of CCA students reading at home. Currently, more than 75 per cent of CCA students are participating in the program. The Literacy team is developing plans to have CCA Reads run in future years.
- All teachers at CCA have embraced the program and support its aims. The Learning Commons provides support for students who may not have the opportunity to read at home by offering a space for them to read independently while at school.
- This program aligns with Goal 1 of RVS' Education Plan – Advancing student's numeracy and literacy skills.

New School in Langdon will Welcome Students in Grades 9 – 11 When it Opens in September 2024

- The Board of Trustees (the Board) of RVS shares in the community's excitement and anticipation of students benefiting from learning where they live when the school opens in September 2024.
- The Board today made the decision to open the new high school in Langdon for Grades 9 to 11 in the 2024/25 school year and grow to include Grade 12 students for 2025/26.
- This decision was made after careful consideration of what the Board and Administration heard during an extensive public engagement with community members, both in-person and online. The input collected through the engagement expressed a broad range of opinions, scenarios and ideas on which students should attend the new school and existing schools in the area. The Board believes this decision best serves all students in the community.
- The following will also begin the 2024/25 school year:
 - Langdon School and Indus School will become Kindergarten – Grade 8 schools. Students from both of those schools will move on to the new high school in Langdon starting at Grade 9.
 - Sarah Thompson School will remain a Kindergarten – Grade 5 school. Sarah Thompson students will continue to be designated to Langdon School for Grades 6 – 8.
 - High school students living in Chestermere will continue to be designated to Chestermere High School (CHS) for Grades 10 – 12.

- Current Grade 10 students who live in the new school's attendance area and currently attend CHS will need to apply as an out-of-area student to attend CHS for the 2024/25 school year (as Grade 11 students). RVS transportation would not be guaranteed.
- To begin to understand how transportation efficiencies may be best achieved with the opening of the new high school, the Board directed the Superintendent to investigate opportunities to bus Chestermere students to and from Langdon area schools starting in September 2024 and report findings to the Board Planning Committee by the end of March 2024.
- The Board thanks residents of Langdon and area for participating in the public engagement and looks forward to celebrating the opening of the new school with the community next school year.

Supplemental Growth Funding Supports but Does Not Solve Instructional Funding Shortage

- Each spring, the Government of Alberta announces the funding being provided to school divisions based on their projected enrolment, their previous two years of enrolment and the funding manual. This funding method is called the weighted moving average (WMA) model.
- For a growing district like RVS, funding based on the previous two years' enrolment and projected enrolment for the upcoming year does not keep up with the actual number of new students coming into the division.
- Despite having to educate 28,558 students in 2023/24, RVS' grants are based on 27,835 students. This means there are approximately 720 students not included in the division's base instructional grants.
- On Nov. 28, additional funding for student enrolment growth was announced as a one-time grant. Divisions will receive \$1,500 per student for actual enrolment growth between zero and 100 students and growth exceeding 100 students will be funded at \$2,000 per student.
- For RVS, this means the updated supplemental enrolment growth grant formula should generate an additional \$1.2 million in revenue for RVS. These dollars are in addition to the \$737,000 of supplemental enrolment growth funding already anticipated for 2023/24.
- However, even with nearly \$2 million in supplemental enrolment growth grants in 2023/24, the WMA still results in RVS receiving \$3.3 million less than if every student was fully funded this school year.

Premier Invited to Chestermere High School to Participate in Career Connection Programs

- RVS has extended an invitation to Premier Danielle Smith to visit Chestermere High School (CHS) to see how students in the school's Cosmetology and Culinary Arts career connection programs are learning skills in those fields. The Premier recently indicated a willingness and desire to visit schools across the province and RVS is keen to be included in a tour.
- CHS' programs are taught by highly certified professionals in the fields and, in the case of Cosmetology, students enrolled in the program can earn credits towards their Alberta hairdressing certification.
- These programs and many others across the division support students in experiencing various career paths and help to build future-ready students.

Board Responds to Delegation

- A response letter has been sent to the community delegation which presented its concerns regarding human sexuality education in RVS schools. The Board's response thanked them for taking the time to provide their perspectives and shared it had reviewed the information and details received from RVS senior administration. Following the review and consideration of the information presented, the Board believes that current RVS policies, procedures, and processes related to teaching sexual health education meet a high standard of care and diligence in providing a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging. The Board is confident the division is

meeting its mandate to provide human sexuality education in an open and transparent way and is engaging with and including parents as their children's primary educators.

Updated and New Administrative Procedures Shared

- Administrative Procedures provide written direction from the Superintendent of Schools to staff, students, families, visitors and other school entities on how the division is to operate. They may also provide operational details on the implementation of Board Policies. They are regularly reviewed for necessary updates and new Administrative Procedures are added as needed and published on RVS' website.

Board Extends Holiday Greetings to Staff, Students and RVS Families

- Board Chair, Fiona Gilbert extended holiday greetings on behalf of the Board to all RVS staff and students and wished them a safe and joyful winter break.