

# Media Release



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2020

RE: Leadership Announcements

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Superintendent of Schools Greg Luterbach is pleased to announce the following leadership appointments, effective August 2020.

### Thomas Elbel, Principal, École Airdrie Middle School



Currently the principal of Fireside School, Thomas Elbel will move into the role of principal of École Airdrie Middle, a dual-track French Immersion school in Airdrie. Elbel joined the ranks of RVS' administrators in 2006, taking on the assistant principalship at George McDougall High School. He went on to lead Manachaban Middle School for seven years, before taking the reigns of Cochrane's newest school in March 2017.

An innovative leader known for his ability to build positive and lasting relationships, Elbel worked tirelessly over the last three years in collaboration with staff, students and their families to set the direction for Fireside School. Prior to this, he helped champion the implementation of Manachaban's WILD program, as well as its Gay-Straight Alliance Club.

Fluent in French and German, Elbel also has been instrumental in helping to build capacity in RVS' second language teachers over the years. As a divisional facilitator, he oversaw the implementation of the new French as a Second Language program of studies and designed targeted professional learning opportunities for teachers at all levels.

Elbel holds a Master of Education, Leadership/Administration from the University of Lethbridge, a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary and a Certificat École de Langue Française from the University of Western Ontario.

### Brenda Valerio, Principal, Manachaban Middle School



Holding the title of principal of Heloise Lorimer School since it opened in 2016, Brenda Valerio will move into the role of principal of Manachaban Middle School in August. Valerio arrived in RVS in 2003 from the Calgary Catholic School District, where she served as an assistant principal, instructional design consultant and teacher. In her role as divisional facilitator in curriculum and instruction for RVS, Valerio championed the introduction of mobile technologies and video conferencing in the jurisdiction. She moved in 2007 to the role of assistant principal of Glenbow Elementary, before being appointed principal of Meadowbrook School in 2010.

In her four years as principal of Heloise Lorimer, Valerio has been instrumental in establishing a culture that reflects the virtues of a Heloise Knight and focuses on literacy, numeracy and mental wellness.

The epitome of a life-long learner, Valerio has immersed herself in countless professional learning opportunities and supported several jurisdictional working committees over the years, all with a goal of

being better positioned to help build capacity in others. A dynamic and engaging presenter, Valerio has spoken at various educational conferences and led numerous external workshops focused on technology, fine arts, school improvement and leadership.

Valerio holds a Master of Arts, Educational Leadership from San Diego State University. As well, she holds two degrees, a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Physical Education, both from the University of Calgary.

### **Barb Holden, Principal, Heloise Lorimer School**



The principal of A.E. Bowers Elementary since 2014, Barb Holden will take the helm of Heloise Lorimer School this fall. Prior to joining RVS in 2011 as assistant principal of Prairie Waters Elementary, Holden lent her expertise to Parkland School Division as an assistant principal, special needs coordinator and early education teacher.

Since joining RVS, Holden has built a reputation of being a compassionate leader with a unique ability to bring people together to collaboratively drive transformational change. With an eye on optimizing student learning and unafraid to challenge the status quo, Holden led Prairie Waters through the implementation of the Primary Years Program and RVS' Communication of Student Learning. During her six years at A.E. Bowers, Holden has successfully built a culture where resiliency, trust and compassion were as much of a focus as was helping students achieve their educational outcomes.

Committed to enhancing her educational leadership skills, Holden has participated in RVS' Administrative Leadership Program and other jurisdictionally-led professional learning initiatives. As chair of RVS' Superintendent Design Team on System Redesign, Holden has demonstrated that she's an out-of-the box thinker with an unwavering commitment to the well-being of students.

Holden holds a Master of Education, Educational Psychology – Special Education from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Regina.

“On behalf of our Board of Trustees, I extend congratulations to Thomas, Brenda and Barb on their new appointments,” said Board Chair Fiona Gilbert. “We look forward to their continued leadership in our jurisdiction.”

Formal competitions for the principalships of A.E. Bowers Elementary and Fireside School will be announced at a later date.

### **For more information, contact:**

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