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French Immersion Teacher Presents Strategies for Online Student Engagement

- Katherine Marshall, teacher at Ecole Airdrie, presented an Exemplary Practice to the RVS Board of Trustees (the Board) highlighting different strategies she has used to create a rich and supportive environment to engage students with their online learning this year. These strategies include special events, live experiments, and making learning available to the students.
- Marshall shared about her changed role as the sole Grade 7 French Immersion online teacher, instructing students at Ecole Airdrie, Manachaban, Springbank Middle and Chestermere Middle. She outlined a typical day of online learning and shared the strategies she uses to keep students engaged. These strategies include making learning accessible and using special engagement tactics like dress up days, special activities and guest speakers.

RVS Board of Trustees Updated on At-Home Learning

- As required by the Government of Alberta, all Grade 7 to 12 students moved to at-home learning effective Nov. 30, with all grades learning at home for one week after the winter break.
- Following government's announcement in November, RVS informed staff and families of the change and provided information specific to the two grade groups. Parent and student guides were produced and distributed with information about what to expect and how they would be supported during at-home online learning. Guides were also provided to school administrators and teachers to assist them in developing their at-home online learning plans.

Preparations Underway for Students Changing to In-person/Online Learning

- For the 2020/21 school year, families chose either in-person or RVS Online Learning for students, with the opportunity to switch learning modes for the second half of the year.
- The high school selection process took place Dec. 8 to 14, 2020, and is now complete. Just over half of families contacted RVS, with most choosing to stay with their current mode. Anyone not heard from will remain with their current learning mode. There will not be another opportunity to switch modes. Based on selections, RVS anticipates its high school online population will increase from 700 to 950 students.
- The selection period for Grades 1 to 8/9 will run Jan. 11 to 15.

- There is no online option for Kindergarten. Families have been notified that they may send their eligible children to in-person classes for the second half of the school year if they kept them home this fall.

Trustees Notified of Purchase Orders Over \$200,000

- As per standard procedure, the Board was notified of 15 purchase orders over \$200,000 between Sept. 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020.
- Among the expenses were purchase orders for natural gas at RVS facilities, Supernet services, student transportation, technology purchases, licensing fees, insurance policies, the decommissioning of the Springbank Lagoon, the paving of the Chestermere High School parking lot, and the modernization of Indus School.