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## Exemplary Practice: One School, One Book 2020 – Crossfield Elementary School

- Endeavouring to create a shared reading experience across the entire school community, Crossfield Elementary took the One School, One Book program to new heights in 2020.
- Bringing their school motto “Learning to Read is our focus, loving to read is our goal” to life, the month-long program had students engage in a novel with their classmates, teachers, friends and families.
- Each family was provided with a copy of *Almost Super* by Marion Jensen, sponsored by parent fundraising society *Whoo’s Crew*.
- Families followed a daily reading schedule at home and a variety of activities took place at school the following day focused on heightening and promoting interest in and discussion about the book. Aimed at creating a strong foundation of literacy and a love of reading, the program helps build daily awareness of the details of each story and encourages more attentive and personally gratifying listening habits.

## Board-Approved 2019/20 Annual Financial Statements Reflect Positive Financial Position While Demonstrating Pandemic Impacts

- As required by the *Education Act*, the Board of Trustees (the Board) reviews and approves the annual financial statements for the previous school year and provides the reporting documents to the Minister of Education by Nov. 30.
- Rocky View Schools (RVS) ended the 2019/20 school year in a strong financial position, reporting a surplus of \$932,000 on annual revenues of just over \$272 million. The surplus was due in part to RVS’ aggressive spending reductions in November 2019 when the government announced an operating budget that was significantly less than originally projected and again in April 2020 when the government took back \$5 million of operating dollars in response to the pandemic and students moving to emergency at-home learning. It can also be accredited to schools and department project deferrals, overall slowing of spending and planned activities/expenses that did not materialize due to the school closures. These funds will carry forward into 2020/21 and will be used to address items such as personal protective equipment, additional cleaning, COVID-19 related expenditures, technology replacement, and school priorities.

- Revenue for the year dropped to \$272 million – down by 4.5 per cent over the previous year despite increased enrolment of 824 students (3.5 per cent). Reduction in government funding accounts for 2.8 per cent of this decrease.
- Of the total revenue, 76.8 per cent was spent on Instruction, 15 per cent on Plant Operations and Maintenance, 5.3 per cent on Transportation and 2.8 per cent on Board Governance and System Administration.
- At 2.8 per cent (or \$7.7 million), Governance and System Administration expenses continued to be much lower than the 3.6 per cent cap set by Alberta Education.
- RVS received \$6.7 million in Capital Maintenance and Renewal stimulus funding which was a new funding provided by government to boost the economy while accelerating important school maintenance.
- The Board approved the annual financial statement as presented and it will be provided to Alberta Education by Nov. 30, 2020.

## **Board to Write Rocky View County Council Expressing Concerns About Lack of Consultation**

- The Board decided to write a letter to Rocky View County (RVC) Council expressing disappointment in the lack of consultation related to their recent decision of Council to disband the joint Langdon Joint Use Site Committee, which had existed for over 10 years sharing information about land use of the site owned by RVS and RVC in Langdon.