



# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RVS EDUCATION CENTRE  
2651 CHINOOK WINDS DR. SW  
AIRDRIE, AB

**May 16, 2019**

*10:00 a.m. Regular Board Meeting*

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. In Camera Meeting
4. Motions Arising from In Camera
5. Approval of Minutes
  - a) Regular Board Meeting May 2, 2019
6. Exemplary Practice/Student Showcase
  - a) 100% Achievement on January 2019 Provincial Diploma Exams
7. Superintendent's Report
8. Chair's Report/Correspondence
9. Committee Reports
  - a) Policy Committee
  - b) Other
10. Trustee Reports
11. New Business
12. Adjournment

This unofficial agenda is subject to change and is not *official* until approved at the Board meeting.



# STUDENT SHOWCASE

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**Date of Meeting:** May 16, 2019

**Student Showcase:** 100 per cent Achievement on January 2019 Provincial Diploma Exams

**Presentation:** Twice a year, the Board of Trustees recognizes outstanding student achievement in Rocky View Schools by acknowledging students who obtain a perfect mark of 100 per cent on a provincial diploma exam. Congratulations to the following students for their accomplishments on the January 2019 exam sitting:

**Colby Coopersmith, Chestermere High School**

**Chemistry 30**

Colby is no stranger to the 100 per cent club, having been recognized in November 2018 for achieving a perfect score on the Math 30-1 diploma exam. For Colby, earning top marks on his Chemistry 30 diploma exam was the result of studying diligently, taking frequent breaks and doing what makes him happy, which includes musical theatre performance. After graduation, Colby hopes to obtain a medical degree from the University of Alberta and pursue a career as a neurosurgeon.

**Mackenzie Davis, Cochrane High School**

**Biology 30**

Studying beyond what was assigned, coupled with strong organizational and time-management skills, helped Mackenzie achieve 100 per cent on the Biology 30 diploma exam. In her spare time, Mackenzie plays soccer, softball and volleyball and has a black belt in karate. She also volunteers for the Drop-In Centre, the Cochrane Youth Council and Cochrane High's Sustainable Development Committee and enjoys tutoring students at Elizabeth Barrett Elementary.

**Katie Keller, George McDougall High School**

**Biology 30**

Katie's daily review of course materials using flash cards played a big role in helping her achieve 100 per cent on the Biology 30 diploma exam. Aside from her academic endeavours, Katie enjoys staying active and plays both club and school volleyball. She also volunteers her time at cheer provincials, as a volleyball scorekeeper and as a reading buddy for elementary students. Although only in Gr. 11, Katie plans to pursue a career in medicine upon graduating and would like to specialize in sports medicine or surgery.



# STUDENT SHOWCASE

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**Brooke Kindleman, Cochrane High School**  
**Biology 30**

Staying on top of homework assignments, engaging in deep inquiry and asking for help all contributed to Brooke achieving a perfect score on her Biology 30 diploma exam. An athlete, as well as a scholar, Brooke's spare time is spent playing and coaching curling. She also likes to tap into her creative side through art and has even sold some of her work for charity. Brooke plans to attend the University of Calgary to study electrical or mechanical engineering, where she hopes to develop ideas and products that are accessible and will improve the lives of all Canadians.

**Kendra Allyson O'Hearn, Bow Valley High School**  
**Math 30-1**

For Kendra, achieving a perfect score on her Math 30-1 diploma exam was the result of a thorough review of all course material. She also had the foresight to recognize when it was time to slow down and focus on an exam question more carefully. Outside of school and her part-time job at Patsy's in Spray Lakes, Kendra enjoys reading and photography. She hopes to attend either the University of Calgary or the University of British Columbia and focus her studies on math and statistics.

**Janae Richards, Springbank Community High School**  
**Chemistry 30**

For this exemplary student, the recipe for success was simple – work hard and remain committed to her studies. Janae, who obtained a perfect score on the Chemistry 30 diploma exam, also credits her inspiring teacher for encouraging her to work hard and enjoy learning. Janae enjoys practicing sign language, making art and volunteering for a physiotherapy clinic and Free Wheelchair Mission, a non-profit organization. Janae hopes to attend the University of Calgary to pursue a career in nursing, so that she can make a difference in people's lives.

**Amtul Saddiq, W.H. Croxford High School**  
**Biology 30**

Amtul employed a variety of strategies to help her prepare for the Biology 30 diploma exam, including taking detailed notes, doing practice quizzes and diligently reviewing THE KEY Study Guide. In addition to this, Amtul never missed a class, which speaks to the impact that attendance can have on academic performance. Outside of school, Amtul enjoys reading, painting, drawing and sewing. This past year, she also volunteered her time to teaching weekly religious classes and tutoring family friends in math. Amtul hopes to attend the University of Calgary to study business or science.



# STUDENT SHOWCASE

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**Alex Thorpe, George McDougall High School**  
**Math 30-1**

Alex's strong organizational skills and willingness to ask probing questions helped him achieve 100 per cent on the Math 30-1 diploma exam. Employing effective test-taking strategies, like tackling the most difficult questions first, also helped him achieve a perfect score. In his spare time, Alex enjoys strength training, playing competitive soccer and participating in Junior Achievement (JA) programs. He also volunteers for the Airdrie and District Soccer Association, JA's Green Cup Business, and for community clean-up and bottle drives. Alex plans to take a gap year after high school to explore his options but hopes to later attend the University of British Columbia or the University of Victoria to study international business or engineering.

**Emily Trew, Chestermere High School**  
**Biology 30**

Using past diploma exams as a study guide helped Emily to prepare for the Biology 30 diploma exam. While writing the exam, she never second-guessed her answers, as she felt confident with her knowledge of the subject and in her test-taking strategies. To give her mind and body time to recharge, Emily also took frequent breaks during the exam sitting. In her down time, Emily enjoys crocheting and gardening. She plans to attend the University of Calgary and hopes to pursue a career in medicine.



# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**May 16, 2019**

## AGENDA

	ACTION
1. Airdrie Field Turf	Directive
2. Technology Reserve Spending Request	Directive
3. 2019/2020 Calendar Exceptions	Directive
4. Transportation Accountability Report	Information

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Luterbach", with a small star-like mark above the final letters.

Greg Luterbach  
Superintendent of Schools

# DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**Item:** Airdrie Field Turf

**Date of Meeting:** May 16, 2019

**Background:**

Airdrie City Council has directed the Parks and Rec department to investigate the possibility of installing artificial turf on a sports field in Airdrie. The City of Airdrie has recommended the formation of a committee. As a result, the “Airdrie Field Turf Society” has been created for the purpose of raising funds for renovating and modernizing the field with the main focus to install artificial turf.

If sufficient funds are raised the society would like to complete the improvements below, in addition to installing artificial turf:

- Improve lighting
- Build a press box
- Build a locker room facility

As presented by C. Glass, on behalf of the Airdrie Field Turf Society, one of the proposed locations for the Artificial Turf is at the Ed Eggerer Athletic Park Field. As the field is on MSR land both the City of Airdrie and the Board of Trustees for Rocky View Schools will need to authorize the improvement.

The project will extend the use of outdoor activities for Bert Church High School students, as well as for community use sporting activities including, but not limited to, soccer, football, rugby and field hockey. The City’s intent is that once the project is complete the society will dissolve, with the current joint use operation of the field continuing.

**Current Status:**

At this point in the process the Airdrie Field Turf Society would like RVS to provide written support, which would allow the society to move forward with a proof of concept and begin fundraising efforts.

Rocky View Schools does have joint use (May 2008) and maintenance (May 1996) agreements regarding use of the field. The agreements are in need of an update as the processes, schools and costs contained within these agreements are no longer current. Requests to update these agreements has not been a high priority with City staff; however, the agreements need to be updated in order to ensure proper joint use and site maintenance continues in to the future.

# DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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## **Alternatives:**

### **Alternative I**

The Board of Trustees indicates its support, provided through the attached letter, for the Airdrie Field Turf Society in their endeavor to fundraise for improvements to the Ed Eggerer Athletic Park, with the condition that the City of Airdrie Joint Use and Maintenance Agreements are updated and ratified by both the City of Airdrie and The Board of Trustees prior to construction commencing.

### **Alternative II**

The Board of Trustees indicates its support, provided through a letter of support, for the Airdrie Field Turf Society in their endeavor to fundraise for improvements to the Ed Eggerer Athletic Park.

### **Alternative III**

The Board of Trustees does not support the Airdrie Field Turf Society in their endeavor to fundraise for improvements to the Ed Eggerer Athletic Park.

### **Alternative IV**

The Board of Trustees defers the decision with a request for administration to bring additional information back at a future date.

## **Recommendation:**

The Board of Trustees indicates its support, provided through the attached letter, for the Airdrie Field Turf Society in their endeavor to fundraise for improvements to the Ed Eggerer Athletic Park, with the condition that the City of Airdrie Joint Use and Maintenance Agreements are updated and ratified by both the City of Airdrie and The Board of Trustees prior to construction commencing.



May 16, 2019

The City of Airdrie  
Attention: Mayor Peter Brown and City of Airdrie Council  
400 Main Street SE  
Airdrie, AB T4B 3C3

**Re: Artificial Turf Field on Ed Eggerer Athletic Park**

Dear Mayor Brown:

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) is excited to be part of the upcoming Airdrie Field Turf project. The opportunity will provide youth, students and the community of Airdrie with better athletic playing fields well into the future.

The Airdrie Field Turf Society has presented to the Board the current proposal, including the possible option of installing artificial turf on RVS' Ed Eggerer Athletic Park Field, located beside Bert Church High School.

Consent to proceed with the construction of Artificial Turf on the Ed Eggerer Athletic Field has been approved in concept by the Board of Trustees contingent on two concerns being met and addressed:

1. The first condition is the need to manage use of this field and parking lot as part of the existing Joint Use and Maintenance Agreements between RVS and the City of Airdrie. Unfortunately, in the current condition, these agreements do not accurately reflect the current costs and maintenance requirements. The Board of Trustees requires, prior to construction start, both the Joint Use and Maintenance Agreements to be updated in their entirety.
2. The second condition is in direct relation to sponsor and donation recognition. RVS Board Policy and Administrative Procedures must be considered for all recognition of signage. As such any recognition of fundraising that involves signage, naming of spaces, or other commitments from the Board cannot be offered as donation incentive without first being approved by RVS.

The Board believes that this field improvement will benefit the community and wholeheartedly supports the Airdrie Field Turf Society using Ed Eggerer Athletic Field provided the conditions above can be met to the satisfaction of both parties.

Ward 1 <b>Shali Baziuk</b> 403.850.5758	Ward 2 <b>Patty Sproule</b> 403.936.2385	Ward 3 <b>Jim Forrest</b> 587.216.3224	Ward 3 <b>Melyssa Bowen</b> 403.835.6673	Ward 3 <b>Todd Brand</b> Chair 403.608.2710	Ward 4 <b>Norma Lang</b> 403.921.0303	Ward 5 <b>Judi Hunter</b> 403.888.1831	Ward 6 <b>Fiona Gilbert</b> Vice-Chair 403.200.8968
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Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, to request clarification or to discuss this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Todd Brand  
Board Chair

TB/sd

CC Chris Glass, Airdrie Field Turf Society  
Larry Paul, Associate Superintendent of Business and Operations

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 3	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6
<b>Shali Baziuk</b>	<b>Patty Sproule</b>	<b>Jim Forrest</b>	<b>Melyssa Bowen</b>	<b>Todd Brand</b> Chair	<b>Norma Lang</b>	<b>Judi Hunter</b>	<b>Fiona Gilbert</b> Vice-Chair
403.850.5758	403.936.2385	587.216.3224	403.835.6673	403.608.2710	403.921.0303	403.888.1831	403.200.8968

# DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**Date of Meeting:** May 16, 2019

**Item:** Technology Reserve Funding Expenditure Request

**Background:**

With a fleet of aging devices, Technology for Learning is continuing with their teacher device evergreening plan. The scope of the work is to replace any additional MacBooks – personally used devices, in the 2008 to 2012 age group. The department recently received approval to replace approximately 200 machines and has since found out that Apple Canada is able to provide approximately 200 more of the same devices. This is advantageous as pricing on the lowest end MacBook is significantly higher.

Additionally, RVS has an aging fleet of classroom projectors with roughly 85% installed prior to 2012. Of those, 15% are original to the school and were installed between 2006 and 2009. A vendor has provided a quote for 200 Casio projectors with a discount of \$320.85 per projector for a total savings of \$64,170.

Although planned capital expenditures are approved by the Board of Trustees as part of regular budget approval (for example, replenishment of maintenance vehicles/equipment), the replacement of classroom projectors and teacher laptops was not anticipated at the time the fall budget was approved in November 2018.

Capital reserves are placed into a restricted fund for this intended purpose, however the use of these funds has not been previously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Reserves for technology evergreening will amount to \$1,250,000 by August 31, 2019. These reserves have been accumulated through the systematic allocation of \$250,000 every year for the past 6 years and after the recent approval to spend \$250,000 for teacher laptop replacements in March 2019.

**Current Status:**

Administration proposes using Capital Reserves designated for technology, as outlined below:

- \$600,000.00 to be used from the Technology Reserve for:
  - Replacement of 205 teacher notebook devices at a cost of \$250,000
  - Replacement and install of 200 projectors at a cost of \$350,000

If this request was approved the Technology Reserve will drop to \$650,000.

# DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION



TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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## **Alternatives:**

### **Alternative I**

The Board of Trustees authorizes the use of \$600,000 from Capital Reserves to fund the replacement of additional teacher laptops and the replacement and installation of some classroom projectors.

### **Alternative II**

The Board of Trustees authorizes the use of \$\_\_\_\_\_ from Capital Reserves to fund the replacement of additional teacher laptops and the replacement and installation of some classroom projectors.

### **Recommendation:**

The Board of Trustees authorizes the use of \$600,000 from Capital Reserves to fund the replacement of additional teacher laptops and the replacement and installation of some classroom projectors.



# DIRECTIVE FOR ACTION

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**Item:** School Calendar Exceptions

**Date of Meeting:** May 16, 2019

**Background:**

The calendar for the 2019 – 2020 school year was approved by the Rocky View Schools Board of Trustees at a regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2018. It was distributed to Rocky View Schools' stakeholders shortly thereafter.

**Current Status:**

All schools within Rocky View Schools follow the approved RVS calendar but some schools may have days where not all students are in attendance. These exceptions are for one of two things, either to support high school student school transitions which decreases student anxiety or for Kindergarten students as defined in the Alberta Education *Guide to Education*. The Alberta Education *Guide to Education* states that for Kindergarten:

A school may use a maximum of 35 hours of instructional time for activities such as

- visits to the child's home
- staggered entry
- small group days
- demonstration of child learning in child–parent–teacher conferences (child must be in attendance)

that promote the transition of children from home to school and encourage communication and relationship building.

All schools in Rocky View Schools achieve the required hours of instruction as defined by Alberta Education. Please see attached School Calendar Exceptions chart.

**Alternatives:**

**Alternative I:**

The Board of Trustees approves for the 2019 – 2020 school year the school calendar exceptions as presented by administration.

**Alternative II:**

The Board of Trustees amends and approves for the 2019 – 2020 school year the school calendar exceptions as presented by administration.

**Recommendation:**

The Board of Trustees approves for the 2019 – 2020 school year the school calendar exceptions as presented by administration.

## School Calendar Exceptions

### A.E. Bowers Elementary School

#### Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	Oct. 24, Oct. 25, Feb. 13 Nov. 8, Nov. 29, Mar. 13	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays PM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays	Long established schedule at the school supported by School Council
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### Banded Peak School

#### Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten

### Bearspaw School

#### Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	Oct. 24, Feb. 6	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### Beiseker Community School

#### Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Alternate schedule requested	Mornings Monday - Thursday	Long established schedule at the school (20+ years) supported by parent survey due to distance rural families travel

**Cochrane Christian Academy**  
Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, Student transition meetings

**Cooper's Crossing School & Northcott Prairie School**  
Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	Sept. 6, Oct. 24, Nov. 25, Jan. 21, Feb. 6, June 8	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays PM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays	Alternating Fridays allows for longer, more meaningful classes within the shortened day. Established through parent survey
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Crossfield Elementary School**  
Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 - 5	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	Oct. 17, Feb. 6	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	Mornings Monday - Thursday	Long established schedule at the school (20+ years) supported by parent survey due to distance rural families travel
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Ecole Edwards Elementary School**  
Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	1 day in October TBD 1 day in March TBD	Allow for conferences during the school day

Alternate schedule requested	AM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays PM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays	Long established schedule at the school supported by School Council
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### **Ecole Elbow Valley Elementary School**

Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	1 day in October TBD 1 Day in February TBD	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### **Ecole Elizabeth Barrett Elementary School**

Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 - 5	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	1 day in October TBD 1 Day in March TBD	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### **Fireside School**

Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3- 5	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	1 day in October TBD 1 day in March TBD	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### **Glenbow Elementary School**

Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 - 5	Transition students into kindergarten

Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	October 18 and February 7	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Heloise Lorimer School**  
Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes Mon.-Thurs. PM classes M-Thurs. and Friday mornings	Alternating Fridays allows for longer, more meaningful classes within the shortened day. Established through parent survey
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Hérons Crossing School**  
Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	November 29 and March. 20	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays PM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays	Alternating Fridays allows for longer, more meaningful classes within the shortened day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Indus School**  
Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Alternate schedule requested	Full day Kindergarten Tuesday and Thursday and Fridays beginning on April 3	Due to rural nature of community allows for less parent required transportation.
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Kathryn School**

## Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Alternate schedule requested	Full day Kindergarten Tuesday and Thursday and one Friday per month	Due to rural nature of community allows for less parent required transportation.

**Langdon School**

## Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way- conferences	Oct. 9, Nov. 20, Apr. 9 & June 4	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Nose Creek Elementary School**

## Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 – 5	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way- conferences	Oct. 24, Nov. 12, Mar. 2	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays PM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays	Alternating Fridays allows for longer, more meaningful classes within the shortened day.
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Prairie Waters Elementary School**

## Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way- conferences	Sept. 6, Sept. 13, Nov. 8, Mar. 13, June 5, 12, 19	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Ralph McCall School**

Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	Oct. 18, Feb. 7	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes M-Thurs. PM classes M-Thurs. and Friday mornings	Morning classes are longer and allows for more meaningful classes within the shortened day.
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**Rainbow Creek Elementary School**

Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	1 day in October TBD 1 day in April TBD	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**RancheView School**

Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	1 day in October TBD 1 day in March TBD	Allow for conferences during the school day
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

**R.J. Hawkey Elementary School**

Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	1 day in October TBD 1 day in March TBD	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes Monday – Thursday	Morning classes are longer and allows for more

	PM classes Monday-Thursday and Friday mornings	meaningful classes for the PM class within the shortened day.
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### **Sarah Thompson School**

#### Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	September 6, 13, 20 June 12, 19	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays PM classes M-Thurs. and alternating Fridays	Alternating Fridays allows for longer, more meaningful classes within the shortened day.
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### **Westbrook School**

#### Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 – 6	Transition students into kindergarten
Alternate schedule requested	Full day Kindergarten 2 days per week and alternate Fridays	Due to rural nature of community allows for less parent required transportation.
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

### **Windsong Heights School**

#### Kindergarten

Category	Dates	Rationale
Dates for staggered entry	Sept 3 and 4	Transition students into kindergarten
Dates for cancelled classes to allow for 3 way-conferences	November 29 and March 20	Allow for conferences during the school day
Alternate schedule requested	AM classes Monday – Thursday PM classes Monday-Thursday and Friday mornings	Morning classes are longer and allows for more meaningful classes for PM class within the shortened day.
Last day of classes requested	Tuesday, June 23	Required hours reached, student transitions meetings

## High Schools

School	Dates	Rationale
Bert Church High School	Sept. 3 grade 9's only	Transition students into high school with welcoming activities
Bow Valley High School	Sept. 3 grade 9's only	Transition students into high school with welcoming activities
Chestermere High School	Sept. 3 grade 10's only	Transition students into high school with welcoming activities
Springbank Community High School	Sept. 3 grade 9's only	Transition students into high school with welcoming activities
W.H. Croxford High School	Sept. 3 grade 9's only	Transition students into high school with welcoming activities



# INFORMATION ITEM

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**Item:**                      **Transportation Accountability Report**

**Date of Meeting:**        **May 16, 2019**

**Background:**

This year Rocky View Schools provided transportation for 12,646 students. This was performed using 255 regular school buses. Last year 12,479 students were transported with 280 regular school buses. Through a variety of changes implemented for 2018/19, we have reduced the number of buses required, saving RVS more than \$1,000,000.

Small independent contractors serve 19 of these routes, 2 routes in Chestermere, 5 routes in Westbrook, 1 route in Airdrie and 11 routes in the area of Kathryn and Beiseker. Two main contractors, Southland Transportation and First Student, are responsible for the remainder of the regular bus routes.

In total 145 rural and rural/urban bus routes travel 15,707 km daily, just over 100 kms per bus per day. Most rural bus routes run approximately 1 hour in the morning and again in the afternoon. Some of the routes that provide service in the more sparsely populated areas run for as long as 75 minutes. Urban buses spend up to an hour and a half in the morning and an hour and a half in the afternoon delivering students to their respective schools.

Some learners with more complex needs are transported through an alternate method that includes transport in cars, vans and small buses. Currently 143 students utilize this service riding to and from school in 53 vehicles. Parents provide transportation for 16 of these complex learners.

**Current Status:**

The Transportation department continues to receive questions and concerns resulting from Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees. Many hours have been devoted to rechecking distances and residence locations ensuring the data is correct and in accordance with the Act to Reduce School Fees. Some of the common complaints come from:

- Families who have students attending French Immersion, when it is not their designated school, as they feel the transportation cost is unfair;
- Neighbours when one family qualifies for free transportation and the other does not;
- Complaints about empty busses, or stops where no one is picked up, due to families registering their children (that qualify for free busing) for bus service but not using the service regularly.

The changes made with cul-de-sacs stops, after the Transportation Consultation last year, has been questioned by many parents.

The major focus for the Transportation department this year continues to be safety. In the aftermath of the Humboldt tragedy, Alberta Transportation has been reviewing and making major changes to bus driver required training and testing controls. The bus driver training schedule has increased in length and the testing schedule is backed up with a significant waiting list. RVS has begun to feel



# INFORMATION ITEM

TO: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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the resulting driver shortage as contractors have office staff and mechanics driving school routes. Contractors are doubling up routes where they can. Unless something improves to create efficiencies, September will be challenging due to driver shortage.

The Transportation department has also hired a fulltime safety coordinator. A set of standards has been developed to check a bus stop for safety. The Transportation staff are currently checking all bus stops to ensure they meet our safety standards. The Safety Coordinator is also responsible for many safety, audit and procedural functions including: tracking and reviewing bus evacuations, bus loading/unloading procedures, student behaviour (as it affects safety), checking new roads and subdivisions for safety concerns, and reviewing start up information from contractors asking for route or stop changes.

### **Future Direction:**

Challenges faced by the Transportation Department that are being, and will continue to be, addressed include:

- New administrative staff at First Student.
- Late busses (although reduced, problems with bus breakdowns continue).
- Continual challenge specific to student behaviour. Student behaviour/conduct on the school buses is the responsibility of the bus driver under the supervision of the school principal. The management of students on the school bus is increasing in complexity over the last 5 years. Bus drivers must deal with increased traffic and many external distractions while driving the school buses and are often challenged to determine what is happening on the school bus behind them. As part of our 2018-2019 department work plan, transportation coordinators have been riding school buses to take note of student behaviour, help drivers with student management, identify safety problems and if necessary, meet with school administrators to discuss unsafe and improper behavior. Most reported incidents identify inappropriate behaviour such as yelling, swearing, pushing, name-calling, standing and moving around while the bus is moving. The Transportation Coordinators are attending all contractor safety meetings and speaking about student management, the correct process to follow and improvements RVS can make to better support bus drivers and our school staff.
- The re-registration and payment program is now in its third year and fully functional for the transportation department. To improve this process for parents we are now working on aligning this process with school registrations.
- Communication with parents. We are utilizing school messenger and sending a newsletter to parents monthly. We have purchased and are using a "Late Bus" app. This allows parents to see if their bus is late or on time. We are improving the information on our web site to help parents to navigate the enrollment process.
- We will again set up two workstations in the lobby to provide training for parents on how to register their children for bus service.
- Bus pass use is now at 80%, but students still need constant reminders to "SWIPE ON and SWIPE OFF". We still struggle with students who ride the bus but are not registered for

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transportation. Bus drivers cannot turn students away, so this issue is difficult to address and resolve.

- The challenge for the next school year is to make the necessary changes to reduce the funding shortfall.

**Recommendation:**

The Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the Transportation Accountability Report as presented.