

# THE BRIEF

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Sept. 21, 2023

### Trustees Gilbert and Hunter Elected to Lead Board for 2023/24

- Ward 6 Trustee, Fiona Gilbert was elected Board Chair for the 2023/24 school year during the Board of Trustees (the Board) of Rocky View Schools (RVS) Organizational Meeting, Sept. 21. Ward 5 Trustee Judi Hunter was elected Vice-chair.
- Board appointments to committees were also made during the organizational meeting. A list of the board appointments is available on [rockyview.ab.ca](https://rockyview.ab.ca)

### Multi-faceted Public Engagement Launched to Balance Airdrie Student Spaces

- Government approval for new schools, modular units and school additions over the years has not kept pace with rising enrolment and has led to many overutilized schools in the growing communities of Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere.
- The Board has approved the Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces public consultation plan and timeline to gather feedback and insights from stakeholders on how the division can best balance enrolment for all Airdrie students.
  - Phase 1 starts fall 2023 and will provide stakeholders with information, resources and an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed solutions.
  - Phase 2, beginning in early 2024, will offer stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback, both in-person and online.
- The Board aims to reach a decision at the public meeting scheduled for April 25, 2024, which will take effect at the start of the 2025/26 school year, allowing time for families and staff to prepare. Given the current overutilization of some schools, it is possible select decisions for specific schools may need to be implemented as early as the 2024/25 school year.
- A letter to Airdrie parents/guardians announcing the engagement and encouraging their participation will be sent following the Board meeting. The division will regularly communicate with Airdrie families, staff and other stakeholders through its many channels to reach and hear from as many stakeholders as possible. [RVSEngage.com](https://RVSEngage.com) will serve as the central resource for all engagement information and to collect online feedback in 2024.
- The Board tasked administration to create staff working groups to begin preliminary work to review the student accommodation situations in Cochrane and Chestermere as RVS continues to address critical space needs for students in these communities.

### Strategic Plan Results Showcase Successes and Opportunities for Growth

- The Board approved their organization-wide strategic plan in December 2022 and part of the strategic plan process is annual reporting on the defined performance measures tied to the priorities.

- While there is no comparative data as this is the first year of implementation, the Strategic Plan Report highlighted many positive initiatives and results, including:
  - development and implementation of steps to improve students' literacy and numeracy,
  - the implementation of a new teacher hiring pool process, the review and updating of all RVS job descriptions and the collection of exit interviews from staff leaving the division,
  - the steady engagement of staff in internal leadership development and learning support teacher development programs, and
  - the cultivation of more than 350 new community partnerships to enhance student learning.
- A report for year one of the 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan has been compiled and is available at [rockyview.ab.ca](https://rockyview.ab.ca)

### **RVS Student Growth Continues to Surge**

- The communities of Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere continue to experience significant population growth year-over-year, resulting in consistently rising enrolment in RVS schools in those areas.
- As of Sept. 20, the number of students attending a school in the division is 28,586 or an increase of 974 students or 3.5 per cent from 2022/23.
- Enrolment numbers will be finalized at the end of September and submitted to Alberta Education.

### **New Policy Will Provide Foundation for Good Governance and Accountability**

- The new Board Policy 29 - Ward Structure will address all requirements in the *Education Act* pertaining to the development of RVS' ward boundaries. Highlighted in the policy are relevant timelines and processes required for changes to be made to both the number of trustees and/or the ward boundaries.
- The *Education Act* requires school boards to determine their ward structure by bylaw and emphasizes the concept of representation by population if utilizing wards.
- Any changes to the bylaw must be passed by December 31 of the year prior to the next election; the next trustee election will take place in fall 2025 and, therefore, any changes to the existing bylaw necessitated by changes to the ward boundaries must be passed by Dec. 31, 2024.

### **Board Endorses Trustee Baziuk Nomination for Vice-President of Alberta School Boards Association**

- The Board has shown its support for Ward 1 Trustee, Shali Baziuk, by endorsing her nomination for vice-president of the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) for the 2023-2025 term. Trustee Baziuk has served as director for Zone 5 of the ASBA since 2019 and is currently ASBA vice-president.
- Gilbert will submit a letter of nomination to the ASBA on behalf of the Board.