

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Jan 11, 2024

Winter Market at Banded Peak School Builds Entrepreneurial Skills and Community Involvement

- In December, Banded Peak School in Bragg Creek hosted its third annual Outdoor Winter Market and Concert with students from all grades participating to make it successful.
- This event is designed to gather the community together during the busy holiday season to celebrate Banded Peaks' talented and creative students. If not selling their wares, students could still take part in the event by participating in an outdoor performance by the school's youngest attendees or by playing in the band.
- Young entrepreneurs in Grades 5 – 8 learned how to build a small business including how to produce, market and sell their products. Selling at the market required the students to use their numeracy and financial literacy skills. This year's market also included the telling of night sky stories from an Indigenous perspective.
- This event achieves several of the outcomes of RVS' Education Plan, including developing numeracy, communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills. By engaging the school community, students experience success and are happy, healthy, feel they belong and are safe.

Division Education Plan Update Highlights Early Successes

- RVS' 2023-2027 Education Plan was approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2023 and implemented in the fall of 2023. The plan includes goals to have our students achieve, build and create within a future-focused system. Each school develops a School Education Plan aligned with the division's goals and responding to the unique needs of their school community.
- Highlights from the first four months of the 2023/24 school year include:
 - Goal 1 of the plan is centred on advancing students' literacy and numeracy skills. In response to assessment results which indicate improvements in literacy and numeracy are needed, schools developed goals and measures in these areas to guide their instructional focus and provide appropriate interventions for groups of students. Some elementary schools received ongoing learning disruption funding from the province based on assessment results and are using that funding to provide additional time for staff to work with students, engage in professional learning to enhance instructional skills and to purchase resources for use in classrooms.
 - Progress has been made on Goal 2 of the Education Plan – building future-ready students. Administration and teachers at 33 schools formed a Career Connections Strategy group which meets to discuss current practices related to career education planning and best practices for providing students in Grades 6 – 12 with access to initiatives intended to help build career skills development programs. This group will ultimately provide recommendations for the development of a Career Connections Practice Guide.

- Goal 3 focuses on creating inclusive, engaging, healthy learning opportunities for all students. Schools are focused on teaching Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)-focused lessons in each classroom, expanding their use of 'catching kids doing good' and rewarding them in various ways for positive behaviour.
- For the second half of the school year, the following initiatives will be launched:
 - Begin the development of the RVS Math Assessment tool in the spring.
 - Implement the OurSCHOOL survey for students in Grades 4 – 12; this survey replaces the Education Plan Survey conducted by RVS in support of the previous Four Year Education Plan.
 - Continue with implementation of the new curriculum as well as the use of learning disruption funding to support our youngest readers and mathematicians.

Staff Benefit from RVS' Investment in Professional Learning and Leadership Development

- RVS is committed to investing time and resources into staff learning and development.
- In RVS' Strategic Plan, there is a priority to focus on strengthening our workforce. This priority encourages individuals to hone their strengths and grow skills to better equip them for their current and future roles, building a higher-performing team and improving student learning.
- The Administrative Leadership Program (ALP) explores concepts around leadership and is intended for certificated staff interested in advancing to an administrative role. There are currently 69 individuals enrolled in the program, at various levels. Additional opportunities for school leaders to learn more about instructional or managerial leadership are offered through focused capacity-building programs.
- The Education Centre Leadership Development and Support Program encourages Education Centre staff to develop leadership skills. Now in its second year, there are 22 participants currently in the program.
- Various other professional learning and development opportunities are available through the Learning department for teachers, support staff and administrators. Since the start of the school year, 1,620 staff have participated in the 66 offerings.
- RVS' centrally organized professional learning opportunities have a 94 per cent rating from staff who said the session was valuable to them on exit surveys.

Terms of Reference for Three Board Committees Updated to Improve Clarity

- The terms of reference for the Advocacy, Audit and Student Transportation Board Committees were updated to provide additional clarity for both Board members and administration related to the purpose, area of focus and authority of these committees.