

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Oct. 17, 2024

Mitford School's Focus Blocks Improving Numeracy and Literacy

Teachers from Mitford School in Cochrane spoke to the Board of Trustees of Rocky View Schools (RVS) about the 18-minute focus blocks they have implemented to improve students' numeracy and literacy. Focus blocks follow a weekly cycle: Monday and Wednesday centre on word study and vocabulary, Tuesday and Thursday focus on number sense with the current targeted math skill area, and Fridays see students work on writing and making learning visible. Staff at Mitford find the targeted outcome approach of these blocks allows students to advance in their own learning while they support and collaborate with their peers. This approach aligns with Goal 1 of RVS' Education Plan, advancing students' numeracy and literacy skills.

2025/26 School Calendar Approved

Collecting feedback from parents/guardians, staff, and students on the proposed school calendar for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 school year was invaluable as the Board considered which options would best serve RVS families.

The chosen calendar for 2025/26 reflects a traditional RVS approach aligned with the feedback received, recognizing a new November week-long break was not broadly supported and greater priority was given to ensuring families can enjoy the summer months together.

Highlights of 2025/26 calendar:

- First day of classes for students: Sept. 2, 2025
- Organizational Day: Jan. 28, 2025
- Winter break: Dec. 22, 2025 – Jan. 2, 2026
- Spring break: April 3 – 13, 2026
- Last day of classes for students: June 26, 2026
- 182 instructional days
- Eight professional learning days

A revised draft 2026/27 school year calendar will be brought to the Board for consideration at a future date.

The approved calendar will be posted on RVS' [website](#) soon.

Student Enrolment Increases by 641 Students

School divisions are required to submit enrolment numbers to the provincial government by the end of September each year. For the current school year, the total number of students enrolled in RVS as of Sept. 30 is 29,243, up 2.2 per cent from the 2023/24 school year but down slightly from what RVS projected in January.

RVS' ongoing enrolment growth continues to be a challenge for student spaces with system wide school utilization over 90 per cent. Twenty-seven of RVS' 53 schools are already full or over-full, and the Board is committed to advocating on behalf of our students, families and staff to ensure new schools, modernizations and modular classrooms receive timely provincial approval.

Board to Request the Town of Cochrane Provide Serviced School Site as Previously Agreed

The Board agreed to write a letter to the Town of Cochrane encouraging the Town to fulfill a previously agreed to memorandum of agreement to get the future site of RVS' next high school in Cochrane ready.

Decision Regarding Board Ward Boundary Review Made

The Board engaged the services of a consultant to conduct a review of the current boundaries of the wards within RVS. Board Policy 29 – Ward Structure guides the process and factors to consider when performing a ward boundary review. An in-person and online engagement was held to collect feedback as part of the review.

Based on the information provided and feedback collected from community members, the Board has approved one additional trustee to represent Cochrane as well as combining current Ward 2 (Langdon, Indus and Chestermere rural) with current Ward 4 (Crossfield, Beiseker, Irricana, Kathryn and Airdrie rural areas). The overall number of trustees remains at eight. These changes are intended to provide more equitable representation of constituents on the Board. This will be implemented during the next Alberta municipal election in October 2025.

Superintendent to Retire at End of School Year

The Board Chair expressed thanks on behalf of the Board to Superintendent of Schools, Greg Luterbach who announced he would retire at the end of the current school year for his 34 years of service to improving the lives of students. Superintendent Luterbach has been in his position at RVS for more than eight years and his dedication, guidance and good humour will be missed by the Board and staff alike.

Notion of Motion Put Before Board

Trustee Bowen put forward a Notion of Motion that “the Board of Trustees directs the Superintendent to provide a class size report to the Board of Trustees by Feb.13, 2025, detailing class size averages for each grade and school in the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years.” This item will be considered by the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Oct. 31.