

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Oct. 31, 2024

Indigenous Learning Creates Self-Reflection Tool for School Staff

The Indigenous Learning department is tasked with supporting learning environments that celebrate diversity and are inclusive. To assist school-based staff and administrators, the Indigenous Learning branch has created a self-reflection tool to help determine a staff member's understanding and comfort with different areas of Indigenous knowledge and understanding.

Members of the Indigenous Learning department presented to the Board of Trustees about the tool and how it can support advancing diversity and inclusivity in the classroom. Staff are supported by the Indigenous Learning branch as they complete the tool at the beginning of the school year and determine school-wide goals related to Indigenous learning. The tool can also be completed at the end of the school year to help staff gauge if the goals were met.

RVS Board Addresses Urgent Student Space Needs in Cochrane with Modular Classrooms and Advocates for New Schools

A thorough review of utilizations across Cochrane schools was conducted by an RVS staff working group. The Board considered their recommendation and the recently approved additional modular classrooms in its decision to maintain the current boundaries and grade configurations for schools in Cochrane at this time. Rather than make smaller student accommodation changes now and again a few years out, RVS will manage with temporary modular classrooms for now and reduce the number of transitions for students, families and staff. A student accommodation review will likely be necessary in early 2027 to determine the areas that will attend the new school in the Rivercrest community and to meet the needs of the growing community effectively. The Board will also need to designate the new Southbow Landing community to schools in Cochrane likely by spring or fall of 2025. These updates will be shared with the community through a variety of channels. The Board will continue to work with the Town of Cochrane to ensure suitable school sites are ready in a timely manner so the Board can advocate to the provincial government to approve even more much-needed schools for the community. The Board has sent a letter to the Mayor and Town Council urging them to advance this important work.

Needed space in Cochrane and all rapidly growing communities to provide students with the space they need and deserve continues to be a focus for the Board's advocacy efforts.

27 Modular Classrooms and One Washroom Necessary for Increasing Enrolment: Request to be Submitted to the Province

As enrolment continues to increase across the division, RVS needs additional modular classrooms in many of its communities to mitigate space challenges until new schools can be approved and built. RVS has submitted to government a request for 27 modular classrooms and the relocation of one modular washroom unit. These would help relieve some of the overcrowding in RVS schools in Airdrie, Cochrane, Chestermere and Crossfield where schools have the greatest need. Modular classrooms are a temporary solution for schools operating over capacity, and the Board will continue to advocate to the Province for the approval of new schools in each of these communities. A decision regarding RVS' request is expected in early 2025.

Additional Funding Plan Focused on Student Success

The board approved the spending plan for the additional funding from the provincial government announced in July. The approved spending plan includes additional supports to help schools transition new students with complex needs into their school culture; enhancements to our IT infrastructure; and resources and technology for schools to support a smooth transition for the student accommodation changes in Airdrie beginning September 2025. Remaining funds will be included in instruction contingency as part of the fall budget update. Additional funds generated through Sept. 30 counts of English as an Additional Language and Indigenous students will be sent directly to schools for extra supports.

Board Creates Committee to Facilitate Search for New Superintendent

RVS' Superintendent of Schools, Greg Luterbach, will retire at the end of August 2025, and a search for a new superintendent is required. The Board approved the Terms of Reference to create an ad hoc Superintendent Search Committee to support the recruitment process.

Discussion Item Postponed

Trustee Bowen put forward a Notion of Motion on Oct. 17 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 was to be considered by the Board at its Oct. 31 meeting and has been postponed.