

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Nov. 28, 2024

Chestermere Students Using Heart Words to Improve Their Literacy

Grade 1 students at East Lake School in Chestermere are using a new way to practice heart words while working on their literacy skills. Heart words are irregularly spelled, high-frequency words where part of the word must be remembered “by heart” so it can be read out or written automatically. For instance, the word, “the”, is a heart word. Teachers Karen Varze and Lisa Morgan presented to the Board of Trustees of Rocky View Schools (RVS) about how this approach is helping their students with active learning, collaboration and visible thinking. In one activity, students find and highlight the heart word in a reading passage and then practice printing it. In another activity, students work together to find the heart word in one of their reading books and use sticky notes to highlight each instance. This activity fosters teamwork and communication while students practice their literacy skills and master the heart word.

2023/24 Audited Financial Statement Approved

Each year, school divisions are required to submit their audited financial statements to the Minister of Education by Nov. 30. Again this year, the auditors gave RVS a clean report for the 2023/24 audited financial statements. Congratulations to all staff involved in preparing the report and supporting the audit process.

The audited financial statements show an overall increase in revenues for the year due mainly to additional instructional, transportation and supplemental growth funding received from the provincial government in response to the increase in the student enrolment. This supplemental funding was necessary as expenses due to higher student numbers also increased.

Final revenues were \$314.7 million and expenses were \$314.2 million, resulting in a small surplus of approximately \$500,000.

RVS ended the year with \$7.7 million in total operating reserves (2.4 per cent of operating budget), well within the government’s mandated range of 1 to 3.2 per cent for 2023/24. Most of those reserve dollars are within the Transportation function and cannot be used for other purposes in RVS. The audited financial statements are posted on RVS’ [website](#).

Planning Underway for 2025 Trustee Election

The Board approved the formation of joint election agreements with local municipal governments for the next municipal election on Oct. 20, 2025, allowing the trustee election to take place at the same time resulting in efficiencies and cost savings. RVS has traditionally held joint elections with our municipal partners.

The Board also appointed Michelle Groff as returning officer. Ms. Groff was the returning officer for the last trustee election in 2021. Director of Finance, Steve Thomas was appointed substitute returning officer.

Education Worker Recognition Week

Nov. 25 to 29 is Education Worker Recognition Week in Alberta and Board Chair, Fiona Gilbert thanked all RVS staff for their dedication to all students and families.

Long Service Awards

RVS' long service and retiree awards ceremony was held Nov. 15. Chair Gilbert offered appreciation and congratulations to all those who were recognized on behalf of the Board.

Youth Safer Communities Project Report

Representatives from the Chestermere and Area Community Coalition, Synergy Youth and Community Development Society presented to the Board about the work they are doing in Chestermere, Langdon and southeast Rocky View County.