

# THE BRIEF

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



**ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS**

May 1, 2025

### **Students Recognized for Achieving 100 Per Cent on January Diploma Exams**

The Board of Trustees of Rocky View Schools (RVS) congratulates the following students who achieved a perfect score on a provincial diploma exam administered in January. The Board is extremely proud of these students for their outstanding accomplishments:

- Noah Azzaria-Byrne, Cochrane High School – Physics 30
- Bastian Benner, Bert Church High School – Physics 30
- Pavneet Gill, Chestermere High School – Chemistry 30
- Christian Labonte, George McDougall High School – Chemistry 30
- Abigail Lewis, Springbank Community High School – Biology 30
- Katherina Ma, Springbank Community High School – Biology 30
- Kai Unger, Springbank Community High School – Biology 30

### **RVS Committed to Goals and Outcomes of Education Plan in Third Year**

RVS' Education Plan guides the work classroom staff and administration do every day to help our students achieve their absolute best. The goals of the 2023-2027 Education Plan are to advance students' literacy and numeracy skills, build future-ready students and create inclusive, engaging, healthy learning environments for all students.

The Board approved year three of the plan that builds on two years of strong implementation and growth and an intensified focus in areas students demonstrate increasing need for support. RVS remains committed to achieving the goals and outcomes of the 2023-2027 Education Plan maintaining consistency in measures and reporting, with minimal adjustments for the upcoming school year.

Priorities for year three include providing active learning opportunities, ensuring effective instruction and assessment practices, creating communities of inclusivity and promoting healthy, safe environments for all students.

RVS will expand the OurSCHOOL survey to include all parents/guardians in May. Families have an important voice in their children's education and their feedback is important to help inform division and school education plans.

Changes to assessments for 2025/26 required by the provincial government and RVS resulted in some measures being removed from this plan.

The Year Three 2023-2027 Education Plan will be available on RVS' website in late May.

### **Government's Modular Classroom Approvals Falls Short of Need**

On April 17, Alberta Education informed RVS that it would receive five new classroom units and one washroom unit relocation through the Modular Classroom Program. These six units fall short of RVS' request and, as a result, pressure on our schools will continue with utilization at many rising above 100 per cent by 2026/27.

RVS submitted a request for 27 new modular classroom units and one washroom unit relocation to Alberta Education in November 2024. The requested number of units was based on the need within many of RVS' communities for additional student spaces until new schools can be built and opened.

It is not yet known when the new modulars will be delivered and installed but it is unlikely to be by the start of the 2025/26 school year. Administration will be asking Alberta Education to allow RVS to re-allocate the approved units to schools identified to have the greatest need.

## Student Accommodation Designations Best Balance School Utilizations

Students moving into two new communities in Airdrie and Rocky View County are anticipated to begin attending RVS schools in 2025/26. Construction of homes in the new community of Vantage Rise in Airdrie's southwest is expected to occur over the spring and summer of 2025. Home construction in the community of Goldwyn in Rocky View County – south of Airdrie and west of Highway 2 – is currently underway.

Administration reviewed utilization projections for schools in RVS and recommended school accommodation designations for students from these new communities which best utilize the available student spaces in our already crowded Airdrie schools. The Board approved the following which will not impact any of our current students or the Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces implementation:

Vantage Rise		Goldwyn	
English	French Immersion	English	French Immersion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten to Grade 5 students to Cooper's Crossing School</li> <li>Grade 6-9 students to Muriel Clayton Middle School</li> <li>Grade 10-12 students to George McDougall High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten to Grade 6 at École Edwards Elementary School</li> <li>Grade 7-9 at École Airdrie Middle School</li> <li>Grade 10-12 at George McDougall High School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten to Grade 8 students to Kathryn School</li> <li>Grade 9-12 students to Beiseker Community School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten to Grade 6 students to École Edwards Elementary School</li> <li>Grade 7-9 students to École Airdrie Middle School</li> <li>Grade 10-12 students to George McDougall High School</li> </ul>

## Gratitude Expressed in Recognition of Principal's Day and Volunteer Week

In honour of Principal's Day, the Board Chair recognized and thanked RVS Administrators for their excellence in leadership and significant contributions to schools. In recognition of Volunteer Week, RVS volunteers were appreciated for the important role they play in supporting student success in our school communities.

## Board Provided Second Quarter Financial Update

RVS' budget continues to feel pressure despite an increase in the base grant received from the provincial government. Lower than expected enrolment leading to a reduction in instructional funding as well as an increase in funding for mental health and curriculum grants means RVS is expecting a higher than budgeted revenue of \$328.5 million for the 2024/25 school year. Despite this increase RVS is projecting higher total expenses of \$332.1 million with a deficit of approximately \$3.6 million to be drawn from the division's reserves. As of the end of the second quarter, expenses were approximately half of the budget and expected to come in slightly lower than budgeted due to lower spending in contracts and supplies.

## Board Policy Updates

Through an annual self-evaluation process the Board establishes goals for itself focused on the continuous improvement of practice. Part of this work for 2024/25 includes reviewing and refining some key policies that form the framework of the work of the Board. In support of this goal, the Board approved changes to Policy 2 – Role of the Board, Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee, and Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent. Highlights of the changes include:

### Policy 2 – Role of the Board

- Rewrote the background section describing high-level responsibilities of the Board.
- Changed the groupings of specific items into categories that reflect more of the governance functions of the Board and reorganized items to fit under these new categories.
- Updated and modernized some wording to reflect language in other policies previously revised.
- Removed items that were already specified in the *Education Act* or included in other policies.

- Removed and/or moved to Role of the Superintendent policy items that are the work of administration.

#### Policy 3 – Role of the Trustee

- Rewrote the background section describing high-level responsibilities of a trustee.
- Grouped the list of items into themes related to ethical standards, trust and confidence; decision making; liaising with community; working with Superintendent; professional development, keeping all items.
- Updated and modernized some wording to reflect language in other policies previously revised.
- Added a few items to clarify trustee role in contributing to a welcoming, safe and respectful working environment and involvement in professional learning.

#### Policy 12 – Role of the Superintendent

- Rewrote the background section describing high-level responsibilities of the Superintendent.
- Revised section categories to reflect updated language and reorganized items to fit under these new categories.
- Updated and modernized some wording to reflect language in other policies previously revised.
- Added a few items previously in Board Policy 2 – Role of the Board.
- Removed a few items that were not relevant or already specifically required by the *Education Act*.

### Notice of Motion

Trustee Bowen provided notice of her intent to bring forward the following motion for the Board's consideration on May 22: Move that the Board of Trustees amend Board Policy 7 – Board Operations to reflect that all Board motions be recorded.