

# THE BRIEF

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

Sept. 4, 2025

### Grade 2s Hooked on Learning Through Trout Project

Grade 2 students from Cooper's Crossing School in Airdrie took part in a fun and interactive program at the Bow Habitat Station in 2024/25. The Fish in Schools (FinS) program provides students with the opportunity to experience the life cycle of trout. Students were given rainbow trout eggs to hatch and care for through to the juvenile stage. Teacher, Jennifer Chen, presented to the Rocky View Schools (RVS) Board of Trustees about their experience. Chen described how the students learned empathy while caring for the eggs and fish, giving them names, drawing pictures of them and ensuring their care schedule was kept up to date. The program enhanced the students' numeracy and literacy skills through writing journal updates, developing word matrices, writing narratives and completing math challenges. Chen said the school will continue to participate in the program in future years.

Participation in this program aligns with RVS' Education Plan, providing opportunities to develop the students' numeracy and literacy and encouraging their participation in meaningful and relevant learning.

### Strategic Plan Year Three Report

In December 2022, in alignment with Board Policy 9, the Board approved a multi-year strategic plan for the division which includes goals, objectives and measures. The goals of the Strategic Plan are improving our students' learning, strengthening our workforce, bolstering our infrastructure and connecting with our community.

The 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan Year Three Report delivered measurable progress across Rocky View Schools.

Early literacy outcomes have improved significantly in Grades 1 – 3 as teachers adapted to new curriculum expectations. Mental health programming exceeded targets, supported by extended government funding.

Leadership development advanced with more roles filled internally supported by the Administrative Leadership Pool and the enhanced Leadership Development and Support programs. Staff participation in professional learning also increased significantly, underscoring a system-wide commitment to capacity building despite challenges associated with substitute teacher shortages.

Infrastructure growth continued with the approval for four new schools and the addition of modular classrooms to expand available student spaces, while renovation and modernization projects have enhanced existing facilities to better align with contemporary teaching and learning practices, and the needs of students.

Community partnerships expanded through the Career Learning Practice Guide, giving students enriched career-focused opportunities. The launch of new school websites and strong engagement from thousands of stakeholders reinforced the importance of community voice in shaping the future of RVS.

In 2026, the Board will begin the work to develop a new four-year Strategic Plan and will seek input from the community.

### Facilities Maintenance Projects Bolster Infrastructure and Enhance Learning Environments

During the 2024/25 school year, RVS' Operations department completed a wide range of projects to ensure school facilities remain safe, welcoming and well-equipped to support learning. To address enrolment growth and provide

additional classroom space, modular classrooms were added at several schools across the division. Maintenance projects included washroom upgrades, flooring and roof replacements, HVAC upgrades and replacements, the installation of air conditioning units in numerous modular classrooms and the completion of the artificial turf field at Horseshoe Crossing High School. In what was a very busy year for the department, significant and necessary maintenance projects were completed to support students, staff and school communities.

### **Preliminary Enrolment Numbers Reflect Steady Growth**

As of Sept. 3, 29,617 students were enrolled in an RVS school. School divisions in Alberta are required to submit enrolment numbers to the provincial government by Sept. 30, and these numbers will continue to fluctuate as students enter and leave RVS. Projections indicate the student population is expected to grow to 29,730, an increase from Sept. 30, 2024, of approximately 487 students.

### **New School Year Brings New Beginnings**

Board Chair, Fiona Gilbert extended a warm welcome to students and employees as they returned for the 2025/26 school year, sharing the Board's best wishes for a successful and rewarding year ahead. Superintendent of Schools, Ryan Reed was also recognized acknowledging today's meeting as his first as superintendent.

### **Revisions to Board Policy 27 - Trustee Compensation and Development Approved**

An ad hoc committee of the Board completed a review of Board Policy 27 – Trustee Compensation and Development in comparison to other school boards in Alberta and brought forward revisions for the Board's consideration. Changes to the policy include updates to wording for clarity and accuracy to reflect current practices and rates, additional travel honoraria for trustees in the large rural wards, as well as a transition allowance to ease the transition from service as a trustee.