

THE BRIEF

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

March 7, 2024

Herons Crossing School Brings Literacy to the Learning Commons

- The learning commons is serving as a centralized hub for literacy at Herons Crossing School in Airdrie where teachers are connecting Kindergarten – Grade 4 students with literacy through purposeful, hands-on tasks.
- Activities are introduced by staff and practiced by students in the learning commons. These activities can then be easily transferred to the classroom.
- Teachers at the school are supported through the provision of literacy resources and coaching.
- Numerous benefits have been noted, including more consistent progression of literacy for students. The Learning Specialist and Learning Commons Facilitator hope to explore how the program can be expanded to middle school students in the future.
- Using this model, the school is providing consistent literacy instruction across grades for staff and students.
- This work directly supports the Rocky View Schools (RVS) Education Plan's goal of advancing students' numeracy and literacy skills.

RVS Announces its Nomination for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award

- The Edwin Parr Teacher Award is given annually by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) to an exceptional first-year teacher. School divisions across the province nominate a deserving teacher and then the ASBA zones pick from these nominations to put forward their recommendation for the award.
- This year's nomination from RVS is Eeshnah Qureshi, a teacher at W.H. Croxford High School in Airdrie. Qureshi was nominated for her exceptional drive and commitment to support her students at Croxford, including those in her English as an Additional Language class.
- The representative of this year's Edwin Parr Teacher Award for RVS will be recognized at the Edwin Parr celebration in Langdon, May 24.

Inclusion Practices Key to Creating a Safe Learning Environment for All RVS Students

- A core belief at the heart of what teachers, administrators and the Board of RVS do each day is the right for all students to have a sense of belonging and acceptance. This right of inclusion is central to several documents which guide the work of the division in this area, including Alberta's Education Act.
- Within RVS' Strategic Plan 2023 – 2026, there are specific measures to track the division's success in providing an inclusive learning environment. Data are tracked and reported on to identify trends and to develop effective strategies for implementation within our schools.
- The Learning department is building expertise and developing leadership skills in RVS staff through a variety of programs and learning sessions.

- All RVS schools are actively implementing the Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Schools are teaching expected behaviours and have a framework to address more serious behavioral issues.
- Stepping Stones to Mental Health – a joint program of Alberta Health Services and RVS – provides students, parents and teachers with access to success coaches, addictions counsellors, a culture coach and other mental health professionals, and provides regular class sessions on wellness topics, one-on-one sessions and information sharing. The ability to provide the breadth and depth of these programs will be impacted by the end of the Mental Health in Schools pilot project grant in June.

Infrastructure and Maintenance Renewal (IMR) Projects on Track

- IMR is a grant provided by the Province on a school year basis to address maintenance issues and safety, and to reconfigure environments as required.
- RVS received a grant of \$2,795,116 for IMR for the 2023/24 school year.
- Projects are on track for completion as originally scheduled, including the following:
 - All carryover projects from 2022/23 have been completed;
 - 22 of 27 schools have been retrofitted with enhancements to front door security;
 - Painting and flooring projects at schools throughout the division are underway or scheduled to be completed over the summer;
 - A washroom renovation at Cochrane Christian Academy is complete; and
 - Various upgrades and repairs to mechanical and plumbing systems have been completed throughout the school division.

RVS Awarded Funding for Construction of Three New Schools

- The Province announced funding for new schools March 1 which includes construction funding for three new schools – two Kindergarten – Grade 8 schools in Airdrie and one Kindergarten – Grade 8 school in Cochrane – and design funding for a high school in Airdrie and a Kindergarten – Grade 9 school in Chestermere.
- The Board appreciates the government's recognition of RVS' critical need for additional student spaces. RVS has been advocating strongly for urgently needed new schools and is pleased students and staff will have some space pressure relief in the future.
- The Board and Administration will continue to advocate to the government for additional student spaces to ensure students have the much-needed schools as communities continue to grow. The Board is grateful to RVS staff, families and the community for their efforts toward advocacy.
- RVS also hosted the Education Minister, Demetros Nicolaides and MLA Angela Pitt on March 6 at W.H. Croxford High School in Airdrie as he announced an increase in enrolment and complexities funding.

Board Meeting Dates Set for 2024/25

- Following Board Policy 7, the dates for Board meetings are set for the upcoming school year before the end of the current year.
- Regular meetings of the Board will typically occur on the first and third Thursday of each month, except in July and August. Due to the flow of the school year, holidays and specific Alberta Education requirements, the schedule may need to vary from the first and third Thursday of each month.
- The Board meeting schedule for 2024/25 will be posted on the division [website](#) shortly.

Changes Made to Board Budget Committee Terms of Reference

- Changes were made to the Budget Committee Terms of Reference to better reflect current practice and provide clarity about the purpose and authority of the committee.

Special March 12 Board Meeting Canceled

- The Board voted to cancel the special meeting scheduled for March 12 after receiving only one delegation request regarding the Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces engagement. The delegation will present to the Board on March 21.