



## Board Meeting Highlights



Date: April 4, 2019

### 2020 – 2023 Three Year Capital Plan

- Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Board of Trustees voted April 4, 2019, to approve the jurisdiction's 2020-2023 Three Year Capital Plan, which emphasizes an immediate need for new facilities in the municipalities of Langdon, Airdrie and Cochrane and an emergent need for facilities in Chestermere, Springbank and Crossfield.
- As outlined in the plan, the jurisdiction is requesting 13 new facilities and one addition over the next three years. Priorities for the 2020 budget year are:
  1. New Langdon Middle/High School
  2. Addition to Bow Valley High School
  3. New Airdrie K – Gr. 9
  4. New Airdrie K – Gr. 9
  5. A new Cochrane K – Gr. 5
- These priorities are to help RVS keep pace with increasing student enrolment and provide facilities that fit the needs of today's learners.
- RVS' student population increases by about 1,000 students annually, which is greater than a four percent growth and equivalent to two schools of new students each year.
- The jurisdiction's growth also is double that of larger school districts in Calgary, partly due to the number of families with school-age children moving into RVS communities.
- RVS administration will submit the capital plan to Alberta Education immediately and will have an opportunity to revise and update its priorities in the fall should a construction site reach readiness or should new information become available.

### Changes to transportation services and fees

- Anticipating a zero percent increase to transportation grant revenues, coupled with the continued escalation of fuel costs, operator costs and other inflationary costs, for a second year in a row the Board of Trustees approved to adjust transportation service levels and increase fees.
- Effective September 2019, families accessing RVS' transportation services will see:
  - A five percent increase to fees for resident students who reside within 2.4 km of their school and/or attend a program of choice, raising fees per student from \$294 to \$308;
  - A new fee of \$157 for resident students requiring an additional stop location in the a.m., p.m. or both;
  - A 19 percent increase for non-resident students accessing a school bus inside RVS' boundaries, raising fees per student from \$472 to \$625;
  - A 19 percent increase for non-resident students accessing a school bus outside RVS' boundaries, raising fees per student from \$1050 to \$1,250; and

- Removal of the family maximum, with the first two children in a family paying \$308 each and all additional children paying \$154 each; and
- Students will no longer be able to accompany a friend to his or her house, unless it's their normal bus route, and Gr. 5 – 12 urban students will no longer be permitted to catch any bus to their desired location within the municipality.
- Since 2008, grant revenues have increased by only 1.27 percent, while inflation has risen by 18.95 percent.
- In past years, the Board has worked hard to minimize the cost to parents by making efficiencies in its operations and depleting its \$1.8 million transportation reserves to zero.
- RVS transportation families will receive a letter outlining the Board's decision and the individual impact to their family by June 30, 2019.

### **East Airdrie accommodation plan**

- Significant growth in Airdrie communities south of Yankee Valley Boulevard and east of the Queen Elizabeth II Highway called for a review of RVS' projected enrolment, capacity rates, attendance areas and grade configurations for schools in the area.
- As was shared at a public consultation, Heloise Lorimer is almost full and no new capital approvals have been announced by the province, meaning that changes to grade configurations are necessary to better accommodate K – Gr. 8 students in the east side of Airdrie.
- At its April 4, 2019, public meeting, the Board approved the following changes to grade configurations, effective Sept. 3, 2019:
  - R.J. Hawkey School and Heloise Lorimer School will become K – Gr. 5;
  - Meadowbrook School will become Gr. 6 – 8; and
  - Student currently attending the Christian program at R.J. Hawkey and Meadowbrook also will align to these schools' new grade configuration.
- These new grade configurations reflect feedback heard during the public consultation to have RVS' youngest students served in their community and to allow peer groups to move together.
- Students will automatically be enrolled in their new school and transition planning for students affected by this change will get underway shortly, with announcements made to parents by their child's receiving school. RVS' Human Resources department also will be working with staff impacted by this change.
- Transportation services will be made available for any students residing 1.5 km from their designated school. Parents are encouraged to register their child for transportation services prior to the end of the year.

### **Exemplary Practice: CONNEX – Community, Outdoor, Nature, Nurture, Education Xchange**

- In November 2018, staff from Banded Peak School travelled to Reykjavik, Iceland to explore the question, "what makes a great school for all?"
- This exchange was made possible thanks to the Alberta Teachers' Association, which offers a short-term exchange program for teachers and administrators to learn about other countries' education programs and pedagogy.
- After visiting Icelandic schools to observe pedagogical practices and meeting with government officials to discuss local initiatives, the group from Banded Peak came to the realization that all parties had a shared vision of community and a strong passion for the environment.
- Upon returning from Iceland, Banded Peak created CONNEX, which stands for Community,

Outdoor, Nature, Nurture, Education and Xchange. CONNEX focuses on reimagining the school's connection with community and fostering a passion for the outdoors.

- Plans for CONNEX, which is still in its infancy, include engaging seniors in the community, opening the Back 40 for community walks, nurturing students through food programs and sharing promising practices with partners from the Iceland exchange.
- As part of the exchange, Banded Peak also will welcome four students and two teachers from Heiderskoli, a small rural town located 45-minutes north of Reykjavik, in early May 2019.