



Board Meeting Highlights



Date: Nov. 29, 2018

Audited Financial Statement (AFS)

- RVS ended the school year in a strong financial position, reporting a surplus of \$3.2 million that can be attributed to a \$600,000 operational surplus and the recognition of \$2.6 million from reserves to capital to purchase land for a future high school in the City of Airdrie.
- Revenue for the year rose to \$277 million – up by 7.6 per cent over the previous year, resulting from increased enrolments of 1,073 new students and funds received through the government's new Classroom Improvement Fund.
- Of the total revenue, 76.55 per cent was spent on Instruction, 14.07 per cent on Plant Operations and Maintenance, 6.41 per cent on Transportation and 2.98 per cent on Board Governance and System Administration.
- RVS hired 141 new staff last year, largely to accommodate increased enrolments in schools and to improve student experience.
- RVS continues to face inflationary increases in contracted services, fuel prices and utilities costs without corresponding matching grant increases.
- Transportation reserves were exhausted to cover funding shortfalls caused by the government's new restrictions on transportation fees.

2018/19 Fall School Fee Update

- In line with the government's new school fee regulations, schools are permitted to submit fees for approval in May and revisions in November of each year limited to activities, extracurricular and/or non-curricular travel fees.
- Schools recently were given the opportunity to submit new and revised fees to accommodate changes in programming, resulting in a total of 70 fees submitted to government for approval by 20 schools - 39 activity, 22 extracurricular and 13 non-curricular travel.
- Revised fees, once approved by the minister, will be posted to school websites under Our School / School Fees in early 2019.

Annual Education Results Report (AERR)

- RVS submitted its 2017/18 AERR to Alberta Education on Dec. 1, 2018. The 15-page report details progress made in Year Three on 2015-2019 Four Year Plan action plans and summarizes trends from RVS' 2018 Satisfaction Survey and provincial Student Achievement Results.
- RVS' drop-out rate is 1.2 per cent, well below the provincial average of 2.3 per cent. FNMI results were equally strong at 2.8 per cent, versus the provincial average of 4.8 per cent.
- In comparison to provincial results, more RVS students are completing high school within three years of entering Gr. 10 (84.9 per cent vs 78 per cent).
- Jurisdictionally, satisfaction levels remained strong among parents and staff on all questions.

- Areas that call for exploration are the low percentage of students who feel they have a voice in their education and who believe the skills they are being taught today will help them once they leave school. These themes are explored in RVS' 4YP planning process.
- Parents are encouraged to look for the AERR online on RVS' website under Publications/ Annual Education Results Reports.

Land Acknowledgment

- RVS established a Wisdom and Guidance committee to guide the collaborative creation of a Land Acknowledgment statement.
- A Land Acknowledgment is an act of reconciliation and meant to honour and respect both the land and the Indigenous Peoples in our local area. It also is meant to be an expression of gratitude and appreciation.
- Using the Wisdom and Guidance committee's initial draft, the Board made a few modifications and approved the following statement: *"Rocky View Schools acknowledges and recognizes all the Indigenous Peoples whose footprints have marked these lands from time immemorial. Together, we can learn and honour the ways of knowing of Indigenous Peoples, and all peoples, for future generations."*
- Guidelines on the use the Land Acknowledgment are in development.

Exemplary Practice

- Langdon School was recognized as an exemplary practice for its *Going Global with Games* initiative, which saw Gr. 7 students create original science-based games working with an expert from Electronics Arts Studios.