

Amendment – November 2019 Minutes

Student Enrolment Numbers

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) official September 30 enrolment count revealed the jurisdiction grew by 923 students or 3.73 per cent over the previous year for a total of 25, 637 students, with Airdrie and Cochrane showing the largest growth overall and Crossfield and Beiseker also experiencing increased enrolment. Utilization rates are at 85 per cent across the jurisdiction with Cochrane and Chestermere area schools averaging 89 per cent and four schools with utilization rates over 100 per cent.

Modular Unit Request

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) annual modular submission to Alberta Education requests the relocation of seven modular classrooms to Westbrook and Indus and the installation of 21 new moduls at schools in the City of Airdrie and Town of Cochrane. Three have been requested for RancheView, 2 for Bow Valley High School, and 8 others TBD dependent on community discussion re accommodation. Anticipate that approvals will be announced in the winter 2020.

Cochrane Accommodation Consultation

Although Cochrane saw the opening of two new schools in the last three years, utilization rates are anticipated to climb to 100 per cent by 2022, prompting the Board to launch a community consultation to identify alternative accommodation strategies for the Town's students and schools. With recommendations to be tabled with the Board by April 23, 2020, the consultation will get underway shortly with affected families receiving a letter detailing public engagement dates.

Budget 2019

The government tabled the provincial budget for 2019/2020 on Oct 24th. While anticipating a status quo budget, an initial review of provincial grant rates released with Budget 2019 has determined Rocky View Schools (RVS) will need to find \$10 million to balance its books for the 2019/20 school year. An unanticipated outcome of the budget being felt by most boards in the province is the reallocation of Alberta's class size grants and school fee/transportation replacement grants to fund growth. In RVS, these grants amounted to \$15 million, which the government will offset by a one-time transition grant of \$5 million. Over the next few weeks, RVS administration will examine all expenses and potential revenue sources, including the consideration of charging additional fees, in preparation for its fall budget proposal to the Board later in November. Of further concern to our Board, Budget 2019 indicates that education funding will remain stagnate over the next few years despite a projected enrolment growth of over 2% provincially, and about 4% for RVS.

Funding Framework Review

The Board is participating in the government review of the funding and assurance frameworks and the expectation is that there will be a new model on place in the spring just in time for Budget 2020.

Online Engagement with ASCA

Alberta School Councils Association is hosting an online engagement session with parents and the Minister of Education on Sat Nov 23 from 1-4pm. Visit www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca for information.

To stay up to date on what's happening, you can subscribe to Board Highlights at http://www.rockyview.ab.ca/board_policies/board-meeting-highlights