

Cochrane High School Council Trustee Report May 13, 2019

Provincial Government

Alberta has a new government since the last time we met, and as a Board we are anxious to get down to work with our newly elected MLAs and newly appointed Minister of Education. UCP education election platform included a review of the new curriculum, a review of funding, as well as a return to the Education Act that was ready to go in 2015 but never fully proclaimed (i.e. put into law). There will be a throne speech later this month (May 22-ish?) where we anticipate learning about government plans for education moving forward. We do not anticipate a provincial budget until the Fall which makes it a little difficult to approve a divisional budget which we have to do by the end of June.

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

Board Operations and Trustee Compensation and Development

Following a review of Board Policy 7 – Board Operations, RVS' Board Policy Committee restructured the policy into two separate policies. In addition to becoming its own policy, Policy 27 reflects revised honoraria rates, reflecting federal tax law changes enacted in January 2019. Policy 7 also saw a major reorganization of items, although the components remained the same.

Community Use of School Facilities and Equipment

On May 2, trustees approved revisions to Board Policy 22, which provides guidelines around community use of RVS facilities. Effective Sept. 1, 2019, community groups will now fall into one of three categories (registered, private and profit-making) with priority given to youth activities. The policy also now states that RVS' Board of Trustees is required to approve the fee schedule on an annual basis. The approved fee schedule for 2019/2020, eliminates past practice of providing up to 12 free rentals to specific community groups and rate increases to reflect increasing hard costs incurred by RVS mostly due to increases in staff costs.

Changes to Transportation Policy, services and fees

Anticipating a zero percent increase to transportation grant revenues, coupled with the continued escalation of costs, 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;
- An increase for non-resident students accessing a school bus inside RVS' boundaries, raising fees per student from \$472 to \$625;

- An 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

Also, 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. This will allow RVS Transportation to maximize the spaces on each bus.

Airdrie Student Accommodation

Significant growth in Airdrie communities south of Yankee Valley Boulevard and east of the Queen Elizabeth II Highway, coupled with no new capital approvals and a delay in the opening of Northcott Prairie School, called for a review of RVS' attendance areas and grade configurations for schools in the East Airdrie and the community of Hillcrest. After public consultation, the Board approved changes to the grade configurations of RJ Hawkey, Heloise Lorimer and Meadowbrook schools, as well as a temporary accommodation plan for students designated to attend Northcott Prairie. 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.

Chestermere student Accommodation

Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Board of Trustees voted May 2, 2019, to change the grade configurations of four schools serving K – Gr. 9 students in Chestermere. These changes reflect the desire of parents to ensure RVS' youngest students are served in their community and that peer groups move together.

Cochrane Student Accommodation

Like the communities of Airdrie and Chestermere, the student population continues to grow in Cochrane and with a lack of capital announcements and modular approvals, schools in Cochrane continue to feel the pressures of space. While details and timelines are yet to be confirmed, RVS anticipates that a public consultation will be needed soon (likely Fall 2019) to gather feedback on how best to accommodate students within our current facilities.

Survey Season

It's survey season at RVS. Please take the time to complete the RVS Satisfaction Survey as well as provide feedback on change to bell times to accommodate mandated lunch breaks for all staff.

Upcoming Board Work Plan Items

May and June will see the Board continuing its Advocacy work by reaching out to the new Government and local MLAs in support of public education and RVS students. As planning continues for next year, the Board will be considering and deliberating on Instructional Resource Fees, School Calendar exceptions for 2019/2020, Division Budget 2019/2020, as well as the 2020/2021 School Calendar. To stay up to date on deliberations and decisions of the Board, you can subscribe to "Board Highlights" at <http://trustees.rockyview.ab.ca/subscription-services> to receive timely information on Board matters