

A. E. Bowers Parent Council

Meeting April 10, 2025

Call to order	The meeting was called to order by Brad Stefaniuk.
Attendance	<p>Present were the following:</p> <p>Britney Bonan Brad Stefaniuk Kim Goring Annette Krawec Mariah Whittemore Donna Tuttle Susan Vis Veronica Hooper (Principal) Kelly Friesen (Assistant Principal) Fred Burley (Trustee)</p>
Previous Minutes	<p>Move that the minutes be approved</p> <p>Moved – Susan Vis Seconded – Mariah Whittemore</p> <p>Carried</p>
Principal for a Day	Declan Smith will be principal for a day on April 11. He has decided that all teachers deserve a pop on that day.
Winsport	The staff applied for Winsport for grades 4-6 for skiing or snowboarding. They are waiting for approval
Nose Creek Park	The students of the school will again this year participate in cleaning garbage from the park.
Corn Maze	<p>Staff is asking parent council to agree to using \$500.00 to take grade three students to the corn maze from SGF</p> <p>Moved by Brad Stefaniuk Seconded by Bitney Bonan</p> <p>Carried</p>

Swimming	<p>School is requesting \$2910.00 for the grade 1-3 swimming program from SGF.</p> <p>Moved by Brad Stefaniuk Seconded by Britney Bonanb</p> <p>Carried</p>
New Laminator needed	<p>School is requesting \$5000 from SGF for a new laminator for the school</p> <p>Moved by Kim Goring Seconded by Brad Stefaniuk</p> <p>Carried</p>
Trickster	<p>School will need volunteers for Trickster April 28 – May 2 They need a parent coordinator Britney will coordinate volunteers</p> <p>They need large cardboard boxes for the students to use.</p>
Field Day	<p>Field day will be held June 6 or if inclement weather on June 13.</p> <p>School is asking for donations for freezies for the students. They will need 500. Mariah will put out a facebook request Mid May to request donations for the freezies.</p>
Concert	<p>The concert for grades 3-4-5 will be held on June 4-6.</p> <p> </p> <p>Moved that a townie be collected at the door.</p> <p>Moved by Donna Tuttle Seconded by Kim Goring</p> <p>Carried</p>
School Open House	<p>The school open house will be held on May 22, 2025 5-6 pm This is for English grade 5 students and French grade 6 students.as well as incoming kindergarten students.</p> <p>Everyone will start in the gym</p> <p>School would like a tea for kindergarten parents. This will be a good opportunity to ask parents to come to council meetings.</p>

### **Fine Arts Academy Model Inspires Student Collaboration and Creativity**

During a Board Showcase presentation, students and staff from Chestermere High School described how the school is successfully using a fine arts academy model to foster student collaboration as they create, build and present the school's annual spring musical production. This model sees performing arts, music and fine arts teachers working together alongside other disciplines including fashion and cosmetology. Students enter the academy focused on their personal interest and participate as either a performer, ensemble musician or theatre tech. The academy emphasizes inclusion and engagement, and students work closely together to mount the production.

This collaborative approach to fine arts helps students become future-ready by developing skills like critical thinking, problem solving and personal growth, which is one of the goals of the RVS Education Plan.

### **RVS Career Learning Framework Builds Future-ready Students**

As part of our work to build future-ready students, RVS has developed a framework to guide career learning in the division. Using this approach, staff support students as they explore a broad spectrum of careers, facilitate opportunities for students to engage with community partners with career expertise and experience authentic, hands-on career-integrated activities. This framework provides opportunities for students to benefit from real-world experiences and make informed decisions as they choose their next steps after school. The framework launched in January and has already led to career-related events, important partnerships, resources and opportunities advancing the division's goal of building future-ready students. Resources, information and opportunities are available on the [Career Learning](#) section of RVS' website.

### **Election Boundary Bylaw Revised**

The Board approved revisions to an Election Boundary Bylaw that provided more precision in the boundaries between rural and urban ward boundaries or where wards border First Nation lands. The bylaw was previously adopted on Nov. 14, 2024, adjusting a number of existing wards throughout the division for the October 2025 trustee election.

### **Board Committed to Maximize Limited Resources RVS will Receive**

On March 25, RVS received its funding profile from the government which outlines the various grants and projected operational funding RVS is expected to receive for the 2025/26 school year. This information is used administration and the Board to draft, finalize and ultimately approve the 2025/26 divisional budget for submission to the government by the end of May.

RVS appreciates the government's continued investment in Kindergarten to Grade 12 education to address some of the pressures being felt across the system. However, the increases do not go far enough to address the challenges experienced in schools. RVS anticipates a 2.5 per cent increase in overall allocation from the government mostly due to enrolment growth and select grants receiving small increases. With rising inflation and increasing core costs of school division operations, budget and service pressures will continue to be felt across RVS for this coming year. The Board is committed to maximizing every dollar of limited resources provided to best serve the learning and working needs of students and staff.

#### **RVS School Councils Provide Valuable Feedback for Board**

School Councils from across the division provided valuable feedback through an online survey on the current support offered to them by the Board, as well as ways the Board could strengthen its support. Insights from the survey provide important perspectives as the School Councils Committee considers plans for future support. The Committee appreciates the time and effort of all who contributed to the survey.

#### **Delegation – Parents from W.H. Croxford**

A delegation shared feedback on the Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces accommodation plan with the Board.

#### **Cooper's Crossing School**

Students in Ashley Burndred's Grade 1 class at Cooper's Crossing School in Airdrie are improving their literacy skills through working together on a daily morning message. Each morning, Burndred provides her students with bags containing sounds and sight words tailored to their individual needs. The students then read through the morning message together, using the sounds and sight words from their bags to fill in the missing words or letters. Using a flip chart to write out the morning message also creates print awareness, connecting the spoken language to the printed words.

Burndred presented to the Board of Trustees of Rocky View Schools (RVS) regarding how reading morning messages together is highly collaborative and interactive. It encourages students to share the strategies they are working on individually with the group. Burndred's use of the morning messages to teach makes literacy meaningful and personalized to every student in her classroom and helps to achieve Goal 1 of RVS' Education Plan: Advancing students' numeracy and literacy skills

### **RVS' Edwin Parr Nominee Hits all the Right Notes**

The Edwin Parr award was established in 1964 by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) to recognize exceptional practice by first-year teachers. Named for a former president of the ASBA, the school division nominates an outstanding first-year teacher to be considered by the ASBA Zone 5 Edwin Parr Selection committee. This year's RVS nominee is Connor Bensen, music teacher at Cochrane High School. Bensen leads the school's band and choir; with his direction, his students have excelled at various festivals. His leadership is marked by compassion, engagement, humour and grace. Bensen is known for building strong connections with his students, parents and colleagues and has become an integral part of the Cochrane High School community. His dedication, professionalism and passion for music make him an outstanding candidate for the Edwin Parr award. The Board congratulated Bensen on this nomination and expressed its appreciation for his outstanding work as a teacher.

### **2026 – 2029 Capital Plan Highlights Need for Steady Stream of New Schools**

Each spring, RVS submits a Capital Plan to the provincial government, which highlights the need for new schools, school expansions and modular classrooms in the communities served by RVS and includes the division's top priorities. School projects approved through this process are announced by the government following the release of the provincial budget for the upcoming year. The Board reviewed and approved the priorities identified in the 2026 – 2029 Capital Plan which includes requests for funding to build six new schools and one expansion/modernization in communities across the division. The approved plan is available on the RVS website.]

RVS appreciates the recognition by the government of its infrastructure needs on March 14 when planning funding for a Kindergarten – Grade 9 school in Airdrie and a high school in Chestermere was announced. With seven new school projects, approved in 2023, 2024 and 2025 currently in various stages of development, expediting the process to have these projects built and open for learning is necessary to ensure they are ready to welcome students as quickly as possible.

### **RVS' Indigenous Learning Branch Provides Important Connections and Supports**

Established in 2022, RVS' Indigenous Learning branch supports staff and students in areas such as implementing Indigenous Ways of Knowing into practice, professional learning, protocol guidance, planning for recognition for significant events and calendar days. At full operation, the branch includes a director, three learning specialists, two Indigenous cultural liaisons and two Indigenous connectors who are tasked with providing support to division staff and students and creating connections with

members of our Indigenous communities to foster new partnerships and strengthen existing relationships that enhance learning.

Some of the important work completed by the team this year includes significantly increasing the number of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit guests invited into schools to share their knowledge, developing the Indigenous learning self-reflection tool, leading professional learning opportunities for teaching and other staff and facilitating the RVS Indigenous Advisory Circle which provides guidance and knowledge to support the Board and division. The branch also launched an internal website providing a wealth of foundational knowledge and curricular resources for various grade levels in English and French.

### **Board Continues to Advocate for Space and Supports for Students**

The Board is committed to advocating to the government on priorities focused on providing students with an education and school experience that supports them in achieving their absolute best.

As part of those efforts, the Board sent a letter to the new Infrastructure Minister, Martin Long congratulating him on his appointment and asking for a meeting to discuss RVS' infrastructure needs.

A letter was also sent to Education Minister, Demetrios Nicolaides regarding the Board's concerns the current process does not meaningfully engage public school boards in the decision-making process to allow for important input and feedback to be considered by Alberta Education. Minister Nicolaides responded sharing his recognition of the Board's feedback.

A second letter was sent to Minister Nicolaides expressing the Board's appreciation for the most recent capital plan project approvals and the change to the education funding model announced in Budget 2025. The Board will continue to advocate for a steady stream of new school approvals and a funding model that funds every student every year

Adjournment

Moved that the meeting be adjourned

Moved by Donna Tuttle  
Seconded by Kim Goring

Carried