

# THE BRIEF

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



ROCKY VIEW SCHOOLS

April 27, 2023

### Dual Credit Programs Provide Opportunities to Earn Real-World Experience

- High school students enrolled in RVS' dual credit programs get career-based experience and earn credits that count toward both their high school and post-secondary educations. RVS has had dual credit programs for 10 years.
- Students from the RVS Community Learning Centre shared about their experiences with two dual credit offerings with the Board.
  - This year marks the first time RVS has partnered with Olds College for its Vet Technician Assistant (VTA) program. Students graduating from this program receive a diploma in VTA to become a fully certified vet tech assistant.
  - RVS has partnered with Olds College to offer welding courses for the past two years, including transporting two cohorts of 15 students to Olds this year. Grade 10 students earn credits toward an agricultural heavy equipment certificate.
- Dual credit programming also allows students to have real-world, hands-on learning experiences, which is one of the outcomes of RVS' Four-Year Plan.

### Cochrane Christian Academy to Move to the School on Powell Street and a Second FI Middle School Program to Open

- The Board decision was made to move all Cochrane Christian Academy (CCA) Kindergarten to Grade 8 students to the school on Powell Street and to create a second new French Immersion (FI) middle school program to be located at Mitford School for the start of the new school year in September.
- After thoughtful consideration of what RVS heard was important to parents/guardians for their children and examining the many accommodation planning factors of various scenarios, the Board believes this decision best serves all Cochrane students and the utilization of Cochrane schools.
- The Board carefully reviewed and considered stakeholder feedback received during a four-month public consultation process. The feedback received through the two in-person engagement sessions, [RVSEngage.com](https://RVSEngage.com) submissions and delegations to the Board expressed a broad range of opinions, scenarios and ideas on which students should attend the school.
- RVS and school administrators will be communicating with impacted families and supporting a smooth transition to the new school. More information regarding the engagement process and details of the Board's decision can be found on [RVSEngage.com](https://RVSEngage.com).
- While the addition of much-needed space is positive for the community, enrolment in Cochrane schools continues to rise by about 300 new students annually, and new schools are urgently needed as we near 100 per cent utilization. The Board is continuing to advocate to the provincial government for construction approval for [much-needed new schools in Cochrane](#).

## Indigenous Advisory Circle Terms of Reference Revised

- In 2021, the Board created a new committee to provide guidance and support to the Board and the division as RVS works to create an environment where all students and staff are knowledgeable, understanding and respectful of the rich diversity of Indigenous cultures while honouring Indigenous history, cultures, languages and perspectives.
- Today the Board approved making changes to the terms of reference for the group to better reflect the community and relationship it is intended to represent. An important change was to rename the committee from the Indigenous Advisory Committee to Indigenous Advisory Circle, embracing language important and significant to Indigenous communities. Other changes include updating the membership to reflect the three First Nations that comprise the Stoney Nakoda and adding a representative from the Siksika First Nation.

## Transportation Fees to be Maintained for Next School Year

- Transportation fees for parents/guardians requiring busing for their children will not increase for the 2023/24 school year.
- The early registration incentive continues as it encourages parents/guardians to register before June 23, reducing the number of last-minute registrations in September.

## Board Asks for a Review the Efficacy of High School Diploma Exams

- The Board approved a proposed position statement to be put forward to the Alberta School Board Association (ASBA) membership requesting the Minister of Education review the administration of provincial high school diploma exams in Alberta.
- The Board cited a concern that high-stakes one-shot exams that can be impacted by anxiety, stress and illness, and can be the measurement of exam-writing skills rather than an indication of subject knowledge, do not align with student success or best practices.
- If approved by the membership at the Fall General Meeting, the ASBA will begin advocating for a review of high school diploma exams with Alberta Education.

## Locally Developed Braille Course Added for 2023

- Locally developed courses (LDCs) provide students with unique opportunities to explore a range of interests in subject areas that complement provincial programs of study and allow school authorities to be innovative and responsive at the local level.
- Trustees approved the acquisition of the Unified English Braille 15 course from the Calgary Board of Education for the 2023 to 2027 school years.