

School Council Report October 2016

Board Annual Organization Meeting

The annual Board Organizational Meeting (similar to a Council AGM) was held on October 6th, 2016 and both Chair Munro and Vice Chair Brand were re-elected into their positions. Committee assignments were also decided for all Trustees and are available on the RVS Board website.

Student Enrolment

The numbers are in, and RVS has grown by 1145 students over last year bringing total student enrolment to 22,712, which translates to a growth of 5.3%. This is the largest jump ever for RVS, and we continue to be one of the fastest growing school divisions in Alberta. For Cochrane and area, schools have grown by 289 students which translates to a growth of 6.1%.

As a Board, we are committed to continue our advocacy efforts with the Government of Alberta and our local municipalities for new schools, appropriate school sites, school expansions and school modernizations across the division in order to accommodate the growing number of students within RVS.

RancheView School

Due to Alberta Infrastructure putting pressure on the contractor, RancheView School is now fully open for all students in Kindergarten to Gr 7. Thank you to all of the RVS staff who worked long hours to get the school ready and outfitted for kids.

Ward Boundary Review

In preparation for the next Municipal Election in the Fall of 2017, given the tremendous population growth over the last number of years within the area that encompasses Rocky View Schools, the Board has initiated a Ward Boundary Review. What this means is that we have engaged the services of a third party consultant to look at the current make up and population of the municipalities served by RVS, and to engage in public consultations and collect feedback from constituents to make sure that moving forward, the RVS Ward structure continues to fairly represent the constituency. Public consultations will take place across the division at the end of November beginning of December. Stay tuned for more information.

Alberta School Boards Association Fall Issues Forum

Trustees Lang, LaPeare and Gilbert, along with Superintendent Luterbach, attended this forum in Edmonton on Sep 27 and 28, along with 200 other Alberta Trustees and Superintendents. There was lots of good discussion and professional learning that took place over the 2 days as delegates sought a better understanding of the Provincial landscape and the impacts it is having

on education, schools, students, and families. Some topics discussed were: New Curriculum Development, Teacher Collective Bargaining, new Education Act, First Nations, Métis and Inuit education, new Modernized Municipal Government Act, proposed changes to Child and Youth Advocacy Act, implementation of Carbon Levy, changes to Human Rights legislation, and Bill 10 and the new legislated role of schools, staff, students, and parents in providing a safe and caring learning environments for all.

If you have any questions about any of these topics, or others that you think may impact your children, please let me know and I can address in more detail at another meeting or can talk with parents individually.

New Curriculum Redesign

This past June, the Ministry of Education announced a large redesign of current curriculum for K-12 in the 6 subject areas that are consistent across all grade levels – Math, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Wellness and Fine Arts. This is a big commitment that is expected to take 6 years to complete. Expert working groups made of experienced and knowledgeable teachers from around the province have started, and the Calgary Regional Consortium, on behalf of Alberta Learning, will be hosting engagement sessions to garner input from all stakeholders, including parents. Some RVS staff will be attending one on Nov 2, but there has been no public announcement of where and when the parent sessions will take place, but we will pass on the information as soon as it is known. It is also expected that there will also be an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input by way of an online survey. This will be a great opportunity to have the parent voice heard, so I strongly encourage you to share your voice by completing the survey when it becomes available.

At the Joint Board School Council meeting on November 17th, there will be a presentation by Alberta Learning on Curriculum Redesign and what it means for Alberta students and families,