



THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest
February 15, 2023

Future's Planning Moves Ahead

Flowing from Canadian Rockies Public Schools' (CRPS) Community Engagement Network (CEN), which took place in 2022 to explore meaningful, high-quality learning experiences for students, Canmore Collegiate High School' (CCHS) Assistant Principal **Hans Holthuis** returned to the board table, Feb. 15, with an update on "CRPS' efforts to prepare students for post-secondary education and lifelong learning." Pointing to the modernized learning goals of today's post-secondary institutions whereby both undergraduate and graduate students are expected to enrol in one or two experiential learning programs as part of their degrees by 2025, Holthuis applauded the efforts of community and educational partners and the staff of CCHS and Banff Community High School for moving quickly to set the stage for students to thrive after high school. Based on the voices from the CEN, and the subsequent Future's Planning initiative, over the past year and a half, both high schools have expanded students' access to experimental learning opportunities through Career Exploration, Career

Internships, new programs like Synthetic Biology and Environmental Sustainability, and Dual Credit program offerings. In highlighting just one success story, Holthuis said the Gr. 9 Career Exploration Program this year alone saw 57 employers welcome 103 students to walk in the shoes of physiotherapists, veterinarians, journalists, ski patrols, park wardens, tourism and hospitality workers and more, exploring new aspects of the careers they're considering for their future. Holthuis' key message for the board: "When students participate in experiential learning, they are better prepared for these very same programs that are now an expected part of the curriculum at the post-secondary level." To learn more about CRPS' experiential program offerings, access [Holthuis presentation](#) via CRPS' website. ■

Learning Calendars Receive Approval

Enabling parents and organizations to plan for after-school care and community services effectively, CRPS' Board of Trustees approved the [2023/24 Learning Calendar](#) Feb. 15, 2023. Next year's calendar features 178.5 instructional days, with the first

CRPS' Board of Trustees (left to right): Dale Craig, Brian Callaghan, Carol Picard, Arlene Rheume, Luke Sunderland

day of school for students falling on Aug. 28. The winter holiday is slated from Dec. 22, 12 noon to Jan. 5, and spring break spans from March 29 to April 12. Students will also have the week of Feb. 19 to 23 off, allowing teachers to attend their annual convention and students the ability to recharge their batteries. Two sets of Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences have been outlined, allowing parents to choose between a.m. and evening meetings. Morning conferences have been planned for Oct. 27 and March 15, while 5 to 8 p.m. conference times have been planned for Oct. 25 and 26, and March 13 and 14. Consistent with past practice, the calendar also features 15 early dismissal Fridays, affording CRPS staff to engage in professional learning and educational

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planning initiatives. Three full-day professional learning days also are planned before school start up on Aug. 24 and 25, and again on May 17. To assist staff and families in planning holidays around CRPS' instructional days, a [2024/25 Learning Calendar](#) also was approved in principle. The calendar may be modified in February 2024 to align with changes to provincial exam schedules and other unexpected announcements. Both calendars have been posted to CRPS' website under "About Us." ■

Community Donations Fueling Student Programs

Seen as a valuable community partner, CRPS is annually invited to apply for local grant monies or is the recipient of donations from local charitable organizations and surrounding businesses. Helping to fuel student programming across the division, two sizable cash infusions were announced at the Board's Feb. 15 meeting. The first received was \$14,112 from Lake Louise Ski Resort, which has donated the proceeds of

its "Community Day" to the division over the past few years. The second arrived by way of Improvement District 9, whose council advanced notice to CRPS on Feb. 7 that it had been approved to receive a \$58,000 "Grant in Aid" for 2023. Monies from both donors will be used to support programming offered through CRPS' Outdoor Learning Centre and/or Nature Explorers. The continued support of both organizations is outstanding. CRPS extends a sincere "thank you" to its community donors. ■

CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Dates

March School Board Meeting - The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for March 15, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Board Office in Canmore.

Kindergarten Open Houses -

Circle these open house dates on your calendar:

- Alpenglow School - February 9 at 7 p.m.
- Banff Elementary School - March 2 at 3:30 p.m.
- Elizabeth Rummel School - March 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- Exshaw School - March 9 at 6:30 p.m.

School Council Meeting Dates -

School Council meeting dates for the

month of March are:

- Alpenglow - March 7
- Banff Elementary - March 22
- Banff Community - March 20
- Canmore Collegiate - March 21
- Elizabeth Rummel School - March 14
- Lawrence Grassi Middle School - March 14

We're Hiring!

- [Mental Health Professional](#)
- [Occupational Therapist](#)
- [Teacher, FI – Division I, II, and III](#)
- [Substitute Teachers](#)
- [Facility Monitors](#)
- [Part-Time Housekeeper](#)
- [School Bus Drivers](#)
- [Substitute Educational Assistants](#)
- [Relief Custodial](#)

VanderLee Receives Platinum Jubilee Medal

CCHS' Major Robert VanderLee was presented the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, Feb. 1, 2023..... Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, Salma Lahkani, for volunteering countless hours of his time over the past 36 years working with Canadian cadet organizations, including as a founding cadet and member of the staff at 878 Banff/Canmore Squadron. Please join CRPS in congratulating Major VanderLee for receiving this prestigious award!



Assurance Survey

Alberta Education's online assurance surveys for Gr. 4, 7 and 10 parents and students are open from Feb. 18 to March 25. Parents will be receiving their Random Access Code in the mail from Alberta Education in the coming weeks.

"Inspiring Hearts and Minds" - CRPS' Board of Trustees

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