



THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest
August 29, 2023

Board Hosts Annual Organizational Meeting

Arlene Rheume was elected as board chair, and **Brian Callaghan** was elected as vice chair at the Canadian Rockies Public Schools' (CRPS) annual organizational meeting. As outlined in the Canadian Rockies Public Schools governance framework—specifically, Policies 5 and 6—the roles of the board chair and vice chair are crucial for efficient board operations and the successful delivery of educational opportunities. The board chair serves primarily as a guiding force, ensuring strict adherence to board policies and procedures while also presiding over all board meetings. Responsibilities range from setting the meeting agenda in consultation with the superintendent to acting as the chief spokesperson for the board. Conversely, the vice chair fills in for the chair in their absence, assuming all roles and responsibilities. The vice chair also assists the chair in governance matters and can be assigned additional tasks as needed. Both roles are vital in the board's self-assessment, ensuring its effectiveness in meeting the educational needs of the division. Congratulations Arlene and Brian! ■

CRPS' Story Goes National!

In the latest summer edition of "[Leaders and Learners](#)," a magazine by the Canadian Association of School System Administrators, CRPS' Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC) was featured as a unique educational gem. Situated on the traditional land of the Stoney Nakoda Band in Bow Valley Provincial Park, the OLC offers a transformative education model that blends experiential learning with curriculum objectives. As outlined in the article, students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 exchange traditional classrooms for the great outdoors, engaging in activities like backcountry hiking, avalanche safety training, and Indigenous land-based learning. Tailored courses like Winter Travel and Water Experience further enrich students' understanding of ecology and safety. What sets CRPS apart, as described in the article, is its focus on emotional well-being, offering students a natural setting to build emotional resilience. Additionally, CRPS is the only school division in North America to offer free avalanche training to all Grade 10 students. With a holistic approach to education that embraces nature, diversity, and well-being, CRPS was noted as truly

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

redefining what it means to learn in a public education system. ■

Red Means Stop!

Yellow school bus "fly-bys" are a growing, dangerous trend that jeopardizes CRPS' students' safety. When a school bus stops and its red lights flash, it's a sign that motorists in all lanes must stop. At the board's August 29 meeting, trustees learned this practice is ignored by many, risking lives to shave seconds off their commute. Ignoring these signals isn't just illegal, it's a breach of community trust and safety. What's the fix? Awareness, enforcement, and education. Know the laws—stop at least 20 meters from a bus with flashing red lights. Drivers who fly-by can receive six demerits. Just stop. It's a minor pause for you but a life-saving moment for our kids. ■



Set Sail For Learning!

Twenty-eight Canmore Collegiate High School (CCHS) students will be charting new waters in experiential education through a unique learning voyage. Scheduled for October 15-20, 2023, students will attend a sailing trip through the Gulf Islands of British Columbia with the Sail

and Life Training Society, known as SALTS, a seasoned non-profit based in Victoria, BC. Known for its robust safety measures and curriculum, SALTS leverages the unique setting of life on a tall ship to enhance students' personal and physical development. The Board of Trustees was delighted to learn that the voyage is now in its

eighth year. Bon voyage! ■

Board Meeting Date Changes

Due to conflicting commitments, the board's September and October regular public meeting dates will be changed. See this year's [board meeting dates](#) on CRPS' website. ■

CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Dates

September School Board Meeting -

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for September 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central Board Office in Canmore.

Follow CRPS' New Social Media Feeds!

To bring CRPS' social media feeds all under one umbrella, new accounts have been created for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Be sure to follow us at:

Facebook - [canadianrockiespublicschools](#)
Instagram - [@crpschools](#)
Twitter - [@crpschools](#)

CRPS' new social media feeds will be used to:

- Showcase student projects, artwork, presentations, and achievements
- Curate and share educational resources, articles, and videos building bridges from school to home
- Bring attention to school, division and board initiatives

- and community service activities
- Inform of important learning calendar dates
- Engage the community in public engagement activities
- Foster cultural awareness and global exchange
- Share innovative teaching practices, resources, and ideas
- Model responsible online behaviour and digital citizenship

Instagram users will also want to follow CRPS' hashtag feed #crpschools as we bring voices from across our division together to build community and pride in our K to 12 system.

CRPS' Website Overhauled

Over the summer months, CRPS' staff were working hard behind the scenes to update the division's [public website](#), making it more parent-friendly. The site now includes a simplified and improved navigation, an updated news and events section, and more information about our student programs and initiatives.

Whether you're new to our community or you're a long-time CRPS family, there has never been a better time to learn about CRPS' approach to student learning. Plan to return often,

new information and updates will be regularly featured. Oh, and check out the information compiled about school councils under "About Us."

Great Kick Off!

On August 23, CRPS staff gathered to kick off the 2023/24 school year. The event featured several special guest speakers including local knowledge keepers and elders, Banff-Kananaskis's MLA, and Alberta's Minister of Infrastructure. Staff also had the honour of welcoming keynote speaker **Tareq Hadhad** founder of Peace by Chocolate. In his speech, Tareq touched on the importance of "ROK" (Return on Kindness), reminding us of the importance of our mission to create a better world through transformational education that celebrates nature, diversity, well-being, and kindness for all. Many staff walked away citing the event, "the best start-up ever."



(Left to Right): Superintendent Chris MacPhee, Board Chair Arlene Rheaume, Tareq Hadhad, and Trustee Dale Craig.

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

Arlene Rheaume

Chair

E arlene.rheaume@crps.ca

Brian Callaghan

Vice-Chair

E brian.callaghan@crps.ca

Carol Picard

Trustee

E carol.picard@crps.ca

Luke Sunderland

Trustee

E luke.sunderland@crps.ca

Dale Craig

Trustee

E dale.craig@crps.ca