



Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest April 24, 2024

New Facilities Coming to Outdoor Learning Centre

Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) unveiled a strategic roadmap for the phased expansion of its Outdoor Learning Centre, aimed at enhancing student programs and optimizing spatial resources. Phase One entails the establishment of basic classroom infrastructure through a modular installation, with immediate actions requested to meet programming needs for the fall. Phase Two envisions further expansion, focusing on enlarging classroom spaces and potential additions like staff accommodation, albeit not for long-term housing. The board gave the green light to the proposed Phase One implementation and acquisition of classroom space. Future decisions on Phase Two expansions hinge on additional planning and funding approvals. ■

CRPS' International Student Program Thriving

At the April 24 Board Meeting, trustees received an update on CRPS' International Student Program, showcasing its remarkable expansion and strategic initiatives. Over the past

decade, enrollment has surged by 300 per cent, reflecting growing interest and demand.

Hosting students from 15 nationalities, including Spain, Peru, Mexico, Japan, Italy, China, Australia, and Germany, the program fosters diversity and student engagement, with a notable and growing preference for outdoor programs like CRPS' ski club – a program spurred by a partnership with Lake Louise.

With the growing demand, the program is seeking additional host families, prompting the development of new marketing strategies and community outreach efforts. To sustain growth, CRPS plans to create targeted marketing materials, share real-life stories from host families, and intensify outreach through community events and direct communications. ■

CRPS 2024/25 Budget Taking Shape

With the release of Alberta Education's Funding Manual in early April, CRPS' senior administrative team is currently immersed in developing the division's 2024/25 budget. After reviewing all grant

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

information, the team forecast operational revenues to reach \$23.1 million, a modest increase from last year. The province's Weighted Moving Average funding model continues to provide stable and predictable funding for CRPS. However, inflationary pressures will mean that the same amount of money will not stretch as far. Funding for kindergarten to Gr. 12 remains consistent. With updated support service grants now reflecting the latest census data, the team is noting an impact on specific allocations like the nutrition and Indigenous grants. Talks with the province are ongoing to ensure fair representation of the Bow Valley's unique demographics. The proposed budget will be tabled with the Board in May for approval. ■

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CCHS Golf Club BC Travel

CRPS' Board of Trustees sanctioned the participation of Canmore Collegiate High School's Extra-Curricular Golf Club students in the upcoming Bowlumbia Interclub

Tournaments. Set to tee off in Invermere, BC, on April 24, 2024, followed by Golden, BC, on June 4, 2024, the tournaments promise competitive play and valuable opportunities for skill development. This approval highlights CRPS'

commitment to fostering students' interests beyond the classroom, providing avenues for holistic growth and sportsmanship. Good luck to this group of talented golfers representing CRPS on the greens of Bowlumbia. ■



Important Calendar Date

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for May 22, 2024, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central Board Office in Canmore.

BES to Showcase Top Five Learning Highlights

Banff Elementary School (BES) is gearing up for a Spring Open House on May 1, 2024, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m., a time of exploration and insight into the upcoming school year. Designed for student and family participation, the event will feature a tour of the school and an exhibition of the year's 'top five' learning highlights. Grade 8 students will also present extracurricular activities and courses at an interactive fair. Essential support staff also will be present to offer information about their services and support to students and parents. The event wraps up with the 'Take Five' initiative, aiming to deepen community ties. Please help spread the word!

Province Considers Policy on Student Cell Phone Use

The Alberta Government is contemplating policy direction regarding student cell phone use in schools, mirroring strategies implemented in other Canadian provinces like British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec. With increasing cell phone usage among students in Alberta and globally, there's recognition of their potential as educational tools, yet concerns persist over distractions, disruptions, and safety risks. Parents are encouraged to contribute their insights through an [online survey](#) until May 3, 2024, shaping the future landscape of cell phone use in elementary, junior high, and senior high schools. Ensure your voice is included!

Cultivating Kindness and Safety

In a bid to foster a culture of compassion and safety, CRPS unveils its latest communication, "[Kindness is Key](#)." The new divisional poster aims to promote respectful behavior across the entire learning community. Emblazoned with the message, "At Canadian Rockies Public Schools, we foster a culture of compassion and safety, where every individual is respected and cherished," the posters serve as a visual reminder of CRPS' unwavering commitment to nurturing an environment free from abuse in any form.

Ensure Your Child Participates in RCMP

Positive Ticketing Campaign

It's CRPS students' chance to shine! With the support of CRPS, the Bow Valley's RCMP is calling on Grade 6 to 12 students to participate in its Positive Ticketing Campaign design contest. This initiative encourages students to create a 4 x 6 inch "Positive Ticket" design, reflecting one of the following themes:

- Demonstrating Personal Safety
- Being a Community Hero
- Demonstrating a Positive Attitude
- Making a Smart Choice

Students can utilize various mediums—digital art, drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, or photography—to express the themes. Each design must include the phrase "Positive Ticket" and checkboxes with the themes. Submissions can be dropped off at school offices by May 31, 2024. The winner, announced June 3, 2024, will receive \$100 gift certificate to Elevation Place, a RCMP Prize Pack, and the chance to be Police Chief for a Day on June 7, 2024, offering a unique platform for students to impact community well-being and display their artistic talents. The RCMP start handing out Positive Tickets in the community in July 2024!

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

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