

MEDIA RELEASE – May 22, 2024

Canadian Rockies Public Schools 2024/25 Budget Approved

Maintaining a clear focus on fostering educational excellence and enhancing student and staff well-being, Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board of Trustees approved its 2024/25 budget May 22, 2024.

With total revenues of \$37,546,226 and expenditures of \$37,530,651, the budget directs 70 per cent towards direct classroom instruction, 15.5 per cent to operations and maintenance, 4 per cent to student transportation, 6 per cent to governance and administration, with the balance relating to fully funded external services.

Superintendent of Schools Chris MacPhee emphasized, "Our steadfast commitment to educational excellence and student and staff well-being is reflected in the fact that we've directed more funds to instruction than in the 2022/23 year. This allows us to enhance small class sizes, bolster literacy and numeracy programs alongside our future-ready initiatives, and ensures we maintain well-being, support, and inclusive educational services unprecedented for a board our size (see listing below). Through this year's investments, our students will receive an education that is not only comprehensive but also second to none in Alberta."

According to MacPhee, the single largest expenditure is for staff salaries and benefits. This year's budget includes funding for 12 additional Full-Time Equivalent staff members, enhancing support across various roles - from teachers to bus drivers. This expansion supports CRPS' goal to maintain low student-to-teacher ratios and increase instructional support, further improving its educational offerings.

"For the third year, our board has decided not to charge lunchroom supervision fees, reflecting our division's commitment to easing family financial pressures where we can," said Board of Trustees Chair Arlene Rheame. "Our board is pleased that the budget maintains a fine balance between expenditures and revenues, showcasing prudent financial stewardship and reflecting our commitment to fiscal responsibility and the division's long-term financial health."

Looking to the future, the budget will afford significant investments in infrastructure, including modernization projects at Exshaw School and Canmore Collegiate High School, as well as the introduction of a new Outdoor Learning Centre classroom. These initiatives are designed to provide safe and innovative learning environments that foster student engagement and success.

As the educational landscape evolves, CRPS remains committed to its mission of inspiring the hearts and minds of every student by investing strategically in their present and future educational needs.

CRPS' budget will be submitted to Alberta Education before May 31, 2024.

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For more information, contact:

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CRPS 2024/25 Well-Being, Support & Inclusive Education Services

Divisional Supports

Lead Teacher	Darin Larson
FNMI Coordinator	Nadine Dack Doi
Learning Services Coordinator	Fiona Watkins
Divisional Psychologist	Taras Danco
Divisional Occupational Therapist	Megan Taylor
Divisional Speech Language Pathologist	Gillian Kasterndiek
Divisional Principal - Distance Education	Hans Holthuis
Coordinator of Outdoor Learning	Peter Presescky
Family School Liaison	Lynne Ratzke
Right From the Start Program Manager	Eileen McCabe

School-Based Supports

School and Family Wellness Workers	Deanne Arada Ashley Butenschon
Learning Support Teachers	Rosanna Ellis Natalie Major Val Chisholm Janis Bekar (0.5) David Purcell Leslie Kestle Nicole Skwara (0.5) Nathalie Poulin Megan Barnes
Literacy/Numeracy Teachers	Jennifer Beecroft Maureen Fraser Jenny Feherty Kayla Weller Joanne Indovina-Duncan Kristi Taylor
School Counsellors	Lisa Brown Jenn Fuller Janis Bekar (0.5)

	Vacant (0.5)
	Kim Janse
Success Teacher	Bilal Abdulghani
	Genevieve Soler (0.6)
	Brendon Stewart
RFTS Coaches	Adrienne Lawlor
	Megan Jenniex
	Kathleen Wiebe
	Deren Alward
Wellness Coach	Sarah Cummings
Chef	Mark Opinga
Snacketeria	Wilma Roeterink
Educational Assistants	46 Staff Members
Library Technicians	8 Staff Members

Outdoor Learning Center - Experiential Learning

Coordinator Outdoor Learning Center	Peter Prescesky
Experiential Education Teacher	Colleen Lee
Experiential Education Teacher	Braeden Kelly
Other Contracted Staff	Cristin Geestman
Experiential Education Teacher	Jennifer Tweedle
Experiential Education Teacher	Ross Heidt
Instructor OLC	Vacant

Contracted Supports

School Psychologist	Shawn Crawford
Speech Language Pathologist	Barb Kostyk
Renfrew (Complex Communication Team)	Lisa Gokstorp - Audiologist
	Jacqueline Meeks - Teacher Deaf & Hard of Hearing
	Sandy McKillop - Teacher Visually Impaired
	Jenna Meers - Speech Language Pathologist
	Caitlyn McGregor - Occupational Therapist
Renfrew - Part-Time	Emily Byrne