



THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest
May 22, 2024

CRPS 2024/25 Budget Approved

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' (CRPS) Board of Trustees has approved the 2024/25 budget, emphasizing educational excellence and well-being. The \$37.5 million budget allocates 70 per cent to direct classroom instruction, 15.5 per cent to operations and maintenance, 4 per cent to transportation, and 6 per cent to governance and administration. Superintendent Chris MacPhee highlighted that increased funding has been put towards instructional supports, small class sizes, literacy, numeracy, and future-ready programs. He also noted that the budget includes funding for 12 additional staff members, enhancing support across various roles—from teachers to bus drivers. Investments in the modernization or expansion of Exshaw School, Canmore Collegiate High School, and the Outdoor Learning Centre also demonstrate CRPS' focus on innovative learning environments. ■

Expanding Horizons with Dual Credit Opportunities

At the May 22 board meeting, CRPS announced the continuation

of its long-standing relationship with Olds College, offering students a diverse range of online courses in Sports Management, Hospitality and Tourism, Business and Accounting, and Agriculture Technology. Additionally, CRPS signed a memorandum of understanding with SAIT, enabling students to access courses in Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology, and Business Management. A highlight of this partnership was a Red Seal Chef leading an Introduction to Baking dual credit course at Banff Community High School, utilizing the new commercial kitchen. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, showcasing the value of learning from an expert chef. CRPS will continue to explore additional dual credit opportunities for students in the coming year. ■

Quebec Trip Proposal Gains Approval in Principle

Lawrence Grassi Middle School has received the go-ahead to pursue an educational trip to Quebec next year. The proposed trip, aimed at fostering French culture and language skills for Gr. 7 and 8 students, is set for June 2-7, 2025, with an alternative date of

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

June 9-14, 2025. The cost per student is approximately \$3,000. Parent meetings will outline trip details, including conduct expectations and the itinerary. Final approval is pending submission of all travel plans and documentation to the Division. ■

Generous Funding Boosts Outdoor & Nature Education Programs

The Board of Trustees extended heartfelt thanks to Improvement District No. 9 for its generous Grant-in-Aid funding of \$22,800 for Banff Elementary's Nature Explorers program and \$41,500 for the Canadian Rockies Outdoor Learning Centre. The initiatives supported through this funding are crucial in offering immersive, hands-on

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learning opportunities that connect students with nature and foster environmental stewardship. CRPS is grateful for this ongoing partnership, advancing transformative education for the benefit of students and the community. ■

Phase 2 of Outdoor Learning Centre Approved

The Board approved Phase 2 of CRPS' facilities plan for the Outdoor Learning Centre. This phase focuses on the addition of temporary staff

accommodation, addressing the need for designated staff areas due to program expansions. The Kananaskis Improvement Area has granted the necessary approval, allowing CRPS to move forward with the project over the summer months. ■

CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Date

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for June 19, 2024, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central Board Office in Canmore.

Understanding Social Media and Its Impact on Student Learning

CRPS' Exshaw and Lawrence Grassi Middle schools are set to host the Center for Trauma Informed Practice's Madison Cameron, May 27 and 28, for a series of presentations focused on navigating the digital landscape and its impact on students. The series, entitled, "The Psycho-Dynamics of Social Media," begins with a virtual session for Exshaw School and Lawrence Grassi Middle School (LGMS) staff on May 27, followed by in-person sessions at both schools on May 28. The evening of May 28 concludes with a family presentation at LGMS, where Cameron will provide valuable insights into online safety and the impact of social media. Families may choose to attend in person or online, with the virtual link to be shared with families soon.

Students Embark on Cultural Heritage Journey

This June 3, 10 students from CRPS will embark on a unique educational journey to Chain Lakes Provincial Park. Guided by Knowledge Keepers Philomene Stevens, Virgle Stephens, Tracey Stevens, and Ollie Benjamin, they will learn the traditional art of gathering Cedar and Alpine Balsam for smudging, a revered indigenous practice. Accompanied by CRPS high school and success teachers, and the Division's Indigenous Services and Outdoor Learning Centre Coordinators, this pilot trip aims to deepen students' connections with indigenous traditions and environmental stewardship. Through such immersive activities, CRPS hopes to inspire a greater appreciation for, and understanding of, indigenous cultures and their profound connection to the natural world.

Banff Schools Celebrate National Indigenous People's Day May 24

Banff Community High School (BCHS) students and staff, along with Banff Elementary School Gr. 7 & 8 students, will attend a special assembly to

celebrate National Indigenous People's Day on May 24 at 10 a.m. This event is being held in advance of the official June 21 observance. Open to parents and community members, the event promises to be a day of learning, respect, and cultural enrichment, highlighted by the esteemed presence of the Stoney Nakoda Knowledge Keepers. The celebration will take place at BCHS.

CRPS Featured at Canada Forum in Edmonton

Superintendent Chris MacPhee will represent CRPS as a panelist at the Canada Forum on May 23-24, 2024, at the University of Alberta. The session, "Connecting Students to their Future by Connecting them to Nature: Mainstreaming National Environmental Literacy," will explore the intersection of environmental learning and education. The panel will also include Assistant Deputy Minister, Michael Zinc, from Environment Canada, and University of Alberta student Sean Bernard. Together they will explore integrating environmental learning across K-12 curriculum, supporting educational outcomes for under-served students, and fostering green career pathways. This event will gather educational leaders from across Canada, including over 30 school boards and 20 universities.

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

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