



Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest June 19, 2024

Brian Callaghan Receives PSBAA Award

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' (CRPS) Board Vice-Chair, **Brian Callaghan**, recently received the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta's 2024 Advancing Association Business and Initiatives Award! This prestigious accolade recognized his unwavering commitment to inclusive public education and his significant contributions to Alberta's public schools. The award was presented at a PSBAA Special Recognition Awards Ceremony on June 1, 2024, at the Westin Downtown Calgary. Congratulations, Brian, for this well-deserved honour! ■

Alberta Government to Develop New Policy on Mobile Device Use in Schools

Announced June 17, 2024, the Minister of Education will introduce a new policy on Sept. 1, 2024, aimed at curbing student use of mobile devices and social media during school hours. Arising from concerns such as cyberbullying and student distraction, the policy will restrict personal mobile device use in the classroom, with exceptions only for medical reasons

or specialized learning needs. Based on an extensive survey that received over 68,000 responses, the policy direction has a high degree of support from parents and educators, who agree that mobile devices significantly impact student achievement. The minister emphasized the importance of balanced enforcement and the role of school authorities in establishing clear guidelines and responsibilities that support the government policy by Jan. 1, 2025. ■

Board Supports School Councils with ASCA Membership Renewal

At their June 19 board meeting, Trustees approved covering the cost of membership fee to the Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) membership for all seven CRPS school councils. This membership offers numerous benefits to enhance the effectiveness and support of school councils. Members gain access to professional development and training tailored to their needs, comprehensive resources, advocacy at the provincial level, and networking opportunities with other school councils across Alberta. Additionally,

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

the ASCA provides discounts on workshops and services, expert consultation, and regular updates on educational policies and initiatives. By leveraging these benefits, CRPS school councils are better equipped to support their communities, ensuring a collaborative and informed approach to school governance and student success. ■

Central Board Office Summer Hours

Approved at the June 19 Board meeting, CRPS' Central Board Office summer hours will run from July 1 to August 19. During this schedule, the office will be open Mondays to Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on Fridays during this period. Regular office hours resume on Aug. 19, 2024. Have a great summer! ■





CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Date

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for Aug. 28, 2024, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central Board Office in Canmore.

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Month

June marks Indigenous Peoples Month, highlighting the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of Indigenous communities, which play a vital role in enriching public education. CRPS schools are in full swing with a variety of events to celebrate, ensuring all students engage with these important cultural traditions. Elizabeth Rummel School kicked off the celebrations on June 13 with an assembly led by MC Eli Snow, where Knowledge Keepers demonstrated Indigenous dances with drums, culminating with a round dance. Lawrence Grassi Middle School (LGMS) followed on June 17, hosting a school-wide assembly led by MC Eli Snow and performances by a drumming group. Classes from LGMS and Alpenglow will join Exshaw School, June 21, for its comprehensive celebration on the National Indigenous Peoples Day. The event, led by MC Eli Snow, will start with a grand entry, traditional dances, a drumming group, a family lunch, and an afternoon of traditional games. Banff schools and Canmore Collegiate High School held their special assemblies in late May. These events not only honour Indigenous heritage but also weave a richer tapestry of understanding and respect throughout CRPS' school community, reminding everyone of the profound significance of these traditions in shaping the path towards reconciliation.

A New Era for Student Advisories and Houses at CRPS

In a transformative move to enhance student well-being and foster a strong sense of community, Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) is moving towards the adoption of Student Advisories and Houses. Spearheaded by Deputy Superintendent **Debbie McKibbin**, this initiative aims to provide each student with an advocate, improve attendance, and create a more inclusive environment. Exshaw School will pilot the house structure during the 2024/25 school year, with full implementation planned across all schools by September 2025. Designed collaboratively with Knowledge Keepers, staff and students, Exshaw's house structure will group students into houses named Bison, Eagle, Turtle, and Bear, each symbolizing the Circle of Courage character traits. Remaining in their house until they leave the school, students will be engaged in activities that vary by division, with popular options including nature walks, art and craft creation, and Stoney language learning. A teacher committee, supported by student council insights, will plan yearly events, emphasizing the importance of students becoming "role models." The Student Advisory Committee will continue to meet during the 2024/25 school year. Stay tuned!

Exploring Apprenticeship and Career Education in Germany

Board Chair **Arlene Rheume** and Superintendent **Chris MacPhee** travelled to Germany June 8 to 15 with an Alberta contingent, which included Minister of Education **Demetrios Nicolaides**, to explore the German education system. This reciprocal visit follows a week-long October expedition when German representatives visited Alberta, including CRPS, to learn about the province's educational framework. The itinerary included school and industry visits in Rhineland Palatine, Schleswig-Holstein, and Berlin, focusing on apprenticeship and career education.

Little Rockies Bus Adventure

Families with young learners new to the division in September are encouraged to sign up for CRPS' Little Rockies Bus Adventure Program, formerly known as First Ride. This free program, held at Elizabeth Rummel School on Aug. 27, Banff Elementary School on Aug. 28, and Alpenglow School on Aug. 29, all starting at 6 p.m., offers an engaging introduction to CRPS' transportation services. Through interactive sessions, knowledgeable staff and experienced drivers will guide students through essential bus safety rules, boarding and disembarking protocols, and emergency preparedness. Parents are invited to ride along and are encouraged to RSVP with the [Transportation Department](#) to participate in this invaluable experience.

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

Arlene Rheume

Chair

E arlene.rheume@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