



THE BRIEF

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

New Leadership Steers the Board for 2024/25

At the Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) Board of Trustees Organizational Meeting on Sept. 24, 2024, **Brian Callaghan** was elected as Board Chair, with **Arlene Rheume** stepping into the role of Vice Chair. In addition, the board appointed representatives to key committees, such as the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta, Local Bargaining Committee, Audit Committee, and the Policy Review Committee. With a clear mandate of "creating a better world through transformational education that celebrates nature, diversity, and well-being," the board is set to guide important decisions that will shape the future of education in the Bow Valley. Special thanks are extended to outgoing Chair Arlene Rheume for her dedication and commitment to the role since the 2021/22 school year - Her leadership and eye on the student was amazing! ■

Board Reaffirms Advocacy Priorities for 2024/25

Kicking off their first meeting of the 2024/25 school year, Trustees reaffirmed their dedication to three

advocacy priorities: Transformational Learning Opportunities, Continuity of Learning, and Strategic Well-Being Investments. As the voice of Bow Valley's public education system, the board plays a crucial role in ensuring these priorities stay top of mind for decision-makers whose choices impact the division. Through consulting with parents, staff, and key partners, trustees continue to keep their ears to the ground to ensure educational policies and investments reflect the needs of the community. With their 2024/25 advocacy priorities now solidified, the board hopes to influence future strategies and decisions for sustainable, innovative learning and wellness across the division. ■

Pauw Foundation Fuels Students' Future Learning

CRPS has once again been empowered by the generous support of the **Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation** with an astounding \$1,003,000 donation for the 2024/25 school year! This significant contribution will bolster student experiences across athletics, outdoor education, and wellness initiatives. Specifically, high school athletics will see \$114,000 funneled

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

towards minimizing fees, with plans to eliminate costs entirely for middle school students. Another \$71,000 will enhance outdoor physical education lessons, and a remarkable \$433,000 will provide students with immersive outdoor learning experiences through CRPS' Outdoor Learning Centre. Student wellness is prioritized through \$375,000 aimed at mental health services and wrap-around support, ensuring care for students' well-being. Additionally, a \$10,000 scholarship fund will recognize outstanding students who make a positive impact on their school and community. The generosity of the Pauw Foundation continues to transform the educational experiences of students, strengthening CRPS' ability to provide meaningful, experiential learning opportunities and mental health supports that empower every student to succeed. ■

(Board highlights continue on page 2)



Specialists Enhance CRPS' Student Support

With a focus on empowering student success, **Megan Taylor**, CRPS' Occupational Therapist, and **Gillian Kastendieck**, Speech-Language Pathologist, showcased to the Board of Trustees, Sept. 24, how targeted interventions—ranging from sensory support to language development—are helping students overcome barriers and thrive in the classroom. In their presentation, the duo emphasized a tiered model of service delivery, which provides universal classroom support, small group interventions, and specialized

individual care for students with more complex needs. By collaborating closely with teachers and school staff, Megan and Gillian ensure that interventions are both accessible and integrated into daily learning environments. Their efforts to improve self-regulation, language processing, and motor skills help create more inclusive classrooms and support the division's goals of enhancing student well-being and learning outcomes. Following their presentation, the board acknowledged the vital role both positions play in fostering student success in CRPS. ■

CCHS Jazz Band Set to Swing

Canmore Collegiate High School's (CCHS) Jazz Band is preparing to hit the right notes in Seattle! With a desire to attend Seattle's Heritage Music Festival from April 3 to 7, 2025, the band sought and received initial board approval to start its planning preparations. With the chance to perform alongside other talented groups from across North America, CCHS musicians will embrace both mental and physical discipline in their pursuit of musical excellence. Final approval will be granted once all planning and documentation is completed. ■



CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Date:

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for Oct. 22, 2024, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Exshaw School.

CRPS Staff to Dive Deep into Assessment Excellence

CRPS is embracing a unique professional learning opportunity right in its own backyard this fall. From Oct. 3 to 5, the Canadian Assessment for Learning Network will host its "Assessment as Communication: Let's Talk" conference in Canmore. Three handfuls of staff members are set to attend, eager to learn from top assessment experts from across Canada, and explore innovative classroom practices. The conference will feature renowned keynote speakers, including Damian Cooper, Lorna Earl, Ken O'Connor, and Katie White, along with thought-provoking breakout sessions led by local and national leaders. Attendees will delve into diverse assessment strategies designed to enhance student learning. This event promises to equip CRPS educators with fresh insights and practical tools, fostering a culture of continuous improvement in assessment practices throughout the division.

CRPS Student Leaders Champion Wellness at Symposium

On Oct. 16, CRPS student leaders from Gr. 7 - 12 will converge for the division's inaugural Student Wellness Symposium. In partnership with Ever Active Schools, this gathering will see teams collaborate to pursue the Healthy School Certification - a program designed to enhance the well-being of both students and staff. During the symposium, students will work to identify key priorities and develop actionable plans aimed at engaging their entire school communities in promoting health and wellness. By focusing on

holistic approaches that incorporate healthy policies, inclusive environments, and active learning, these young leaders are set to spearhead initiatives that could earn their schools certification as a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Healthy School.

Bridging Classrooms and Careers

CRPS is excited to announce a new partnership with CAREERS: Next Generation, aimed at connecting Bow Valley students with experiential learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. This initiative is set to enhance work-integrated learning by linking students to job site placements, such as apprenticeships and internships, in fields ranging from trades to information technology. Leveraging CAREERS' extensive employer network and resources, CRPS District Principal **Hans Holthuis** will lead efforts to guide students in exploring diverse career pathways. Keep your ear to the ground for exciting news as this partnership continues to expand.

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

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