



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

Affirming Current Assessment Practices for Student Success

At the Oct. 22 Board of Trustees meeting, Canadian Rockies Public Schools' (CRPS) **Debbie McKibbin, Steve Greene, Mike Shoemaker, Hans Holthuis, Annabel Preece, Jody Keon, and Kelly Proudfoot** provided an update on the division's participation in the Canadian Assessment for Learning Network conference in mid-October. The group emphasized how the conference reaffirmed the division's current assessment practices, which focus on improving student learning through formative assessments. By incorporating backward design and inquiry-based approaches, CRPS teachers are creating tasks that are authentic and aligned with real-world learning. They also highlighted CRPS' commitment to using assessment as a tool for enhancing student outcomes. A key takeaway from the conference was the reaffirmation of triangulating evidence—through products, conversations, and observations—and the continued exploration of innovative tools, including artificial intelligence, to further support student success and well-being. ■

Cooking Up Success: CRPS Secures Dual Credit Grants

CRPS is thrilled to announce the receipt of two Dual Credit Grants this year, expanding opportunities for students in culinary arts. In partnership with SAIT, the Start-Up Grant will afford the division to launch two 60-hour Dual Credit courses at Banff Community High School's (BCHS) brand-new commercial kitchen. Taught by a SAIT Red Seal Chef Instructor, "Introduction to Baking," will be offered in semester one, while semester two introduces "Introduction to Cooking." These hands-on courses are open to students from both BCHS and Canmore Collegiate High School (CCHS). Additionally, the Enhancement Grant Funding will bolster the expansion of the commercial kitchen's existing equipment to allow for more students to function and take courses in the space. CRPS looks forward to enhancing culinary education in the Bow Valley. ■

CCHS Multi-Purpose Classroom Approved for Construction

At its Oct. 22 meeting, the Board of

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

Trustees approved an exciting new project for CCHS - a multipurpose classroom designed to transform an existing outdoor area into a versatile gathering space. Located on the second floor, north of the music room, this 2,310-square-foot space will offer seating for approximately 150 people and include audio support, making it ideal for instructional programming. With entry points from both inside the school and the exterior, the room will help alleviate congestion during busy lunch periods, ensuring students have a comfortable place to eat. The project is set to be completed ahead of the 2025/26 school year, enhancing the school's ability to support both instructional and student wellness needs. ■

(Board highlights continue on page 2)

Board Updates Policy Framework

The Board of Trustees' Policy Committee presented four policy revisions for approval, Oct. 22, as part of its annual review process, ensuring clarity and effectiveness in governance. The Board of Trustees approved changes to the following board policies: "Policy No. 2: Role

of the Board" now includes a formal evaluation of the Superintendent after the first year of the initial contract and again prior to renewal, with annual performance highlights in between. "Policy No. 5: Role of the Board Chair" requires the Chair to canvas Trustees for potential agenda items. "Policy No. 6: Role of the Vice-Chair" clarifies that the Vice-Chair will act on behalf of

the Chair in their absence, assuming all responsibilities. Finally, "Policy No. 7: Board Operations" mandates the electronic submission of per diems and expense claims, with the Board Chair approving all Trustee claims and the Vice-Chair approving the Chair's claims. These updates aim to refine Board operations and ensure transparency. ■



CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Date:

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for Nov. 26, 2024, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Banff Elementary School.

Student Panel Shared Insights at National CAfLN Assessment Conference

On Oct. 4, a group of 10 CRPS students from Gr. 4 to 12 took the stage at the Canadian Assessment for Learning Network (CAfLN) Conference in Canmore to share their perspectives on assessment. In preparation, these students participated in a **pre-conference activity** organized by Lead Teacher **Darin Larson** and Deputy Superintendent **Debbie McKibbin**, where they openly discussed their thoughts on assessment. Words like "stress," "hopefulness," and "nervous" captured their feelings, with many expressing a preference for more projects and group work over traditional tests. The student panel, which ran from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m., offered educators from across Canada valuable insights into how CRPS' assessment practices were impacting students. This session encouraged educators to rethink assessment approaches, aiming to create more student-centered learning environments.

Breathing Life into CRPS' Shared Vision of Learning

CRPS' newly revised Shared Vision of Learning continues to guide the division as it moves into its first full year of implementation. A dedicated committee, composed of both returning and new members, is leading efforts to ensure the vision continues to evolve. This year, they aim to visually communicate the vision to the broader learning community, reinforcing CRPS' collective commitment to student learning, engagement, and community well-being. School administrators are reporting that teachers and staff are already collaborating in small groups to explore how the vision fits their unique school contexts and to identify actionable steps to bring it to life. Emphasizing connection, consistency, and celebrating learning across CRPS' diverse schools, the goal is for the vision to resonate with everyone—from staff to parents and students alike.

Scaring Off Hunger this Halloween

CRPS high school students are gearing up to make a difference this Halloween by participating in the **WE Scare Hunger** campaign. Students from Banff Community High School (BCHS) and Canmore Collegiate High School (CCHS) will skip the candy hunt and instead collect non-perishable food items for local food banks. On Oct. 31, from 6 to 8 p.m., BCHS students will canvass Banff neighborhoods to support the Banff Food Bank, while CCHS students will gather donations for the Bow Valley Food Bank in Canmore. Be prepared. Have your food donations ready!

Exshaw Walks for Wenjack

Students at Exshaw School are preparing for a powerful event the week of Oct. 21: the "**Walk for Wenjack**." This walk honours Chanie Wenjack, a 12-year-old Anishinaabe boy who died trying to escape the Cecilia Jeffrey Residential School. Leading up to the walk, students have explored Wenjack's story through art, writing, and discussions focused on resilience and loss. On the walk, they will embrace the values of belonging, generosity, and community spirit, all while reflecting on reconciliation's ongoing journey.

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

Brian Callaghan

Chair

E brian.callaghan@crps.ca

Arlene Rheume

Vice Chair

E arlene.rheume@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