



## Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest February 26, 2025

### CRPS' 2025-2029 Education Plan Takes Shape

Only weeks into 2025, Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) is already shaping the next four years of education, with draft five of its 2025-2029 Four-Year Education Plan presented to the Board of Trustees on Feb. 26. The plan is built on three core goals: ensuring learners are ready to learn, inspired to succeed, and future-ready. Priorities include fostering safe, supportive, inclusive learning environments, deepening real-world learning experiences, and preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and adaptability to thrive in an evolving world. Key performance measures will track student engagement, achievement, and readiness for post-secondary pathways. The plan emphasizes instructional excellence, whole-child development, and strong community connections, ensuring CRPS continues to deliver transformative education enacted by a renewed Shared Vision of Learning. Over the next four weeks, school staff will discuss strategies for the plan, with a final comprehensive draft brought to the board meeting in April for final approval. Stay tuned! ■

### CRPS Sees Early Gains from New District Principal Role

Only six months into the role, CRPS is already reaping the benefits of its newly established District Principal position, led by **Dr. Hans Holthuis**. This position enhances experiential learning, career development, and academic innovation across the division. Holthuis oversees Distance Education and Flexible Learning, leads the Grade 9 Career Exploration Program, supports Dual Credit enrollment, and coordinates the CRPS Student Hiring Fair. As the main research contact with the University of Calgary, he guides high school outcomes-based assessment and CRPS data analysis. Additionally, Holthuis spearheads the Artificial Intelligence Committee and supports student voice initiatives. With a focus on building real-world connections, he helps students navigate pathways to post-secondary education and careers. Whether mentoring educators, facilitating student advisory groups, or leading strategic initiatives, Holthuis' role ensures CRPS continues to provide flexible, future-focused learning experiences that empower students to thrive. ■

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

### Steady Hands Guide Elections

With the 2025 school board election on the horizon, CRPS is ensuring a smooth and transparent process by appointing key officials to oversee the vote. The board has approved Secretary/Associate Superintendent **Konstantin Gregovic** as returning officer, entrusting him with managing election proceedings and upholding the integrity of the process. Treasurer/Associate Superintendent **Cheryl Jensen** will serve as substitute returning officer, ready to step in, as needed. Their leadership will help facilitate a fair and efficient election as the division prepares for trustee nominations, candidate engagement, and the official vote on Oct. 20, 2025. With their deep understanding of governance and financial stewardship, Gregovic and Jensen bring expertise that will ensure the process is conducted with professionalism and accuracy. ■





# CRPS Tidbits

## Important Calendar Date:

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for Mar. 26, 2025, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Central Board Office in Canmore.

## Learning in Action at CCHS and BCHS Open Houses

What does learning look like in the dynamic spaces of Canmore Collegiate High School (CCHS) and Banff Community High School (BCHS)? Families will find out firsthand at the Celebrations of Learning and Transition Presentations Evenings - March 11 at CCHS from 6 to 8 p.m. and March 24 at BCHS, from 5:15 to 7:45 p.m. Teachers and student ambassadors will showcase coursework, innovative projects, and hands-on learning experiences in newly designed spaces. The events will also guide students through course selection for the 2025/26 school year, helping them align their studies with their interests. Unique to the Bow Valley, high school students can access programming at both schools by transferring over lunch via the Roam Bus, expanding their opportunities in diverse pathways such as entrepreneurship, Indigenous languages, environmental sustainability, media design, outdoor education, and more. Whether refining a passion or exploring a new direction, these evenings offer a glimpse into the possibilities that shape student success.

## Assurance Surveys to Strengthen CRPS Schools

Education thrives on feedback, and the Alberta Education Assurance Survey is a chance for students, parents, and teachers to help shape the future of learning. Administered between Feb. 18 and March 21, 2025, families with students in Grades 4, 7, and 10 will receive a survey invitation with a Random Access Code (RAC) to respond online. Teachers and students will complete their surveys electronically at school, ensuring a well-rounded snapshot of education quality across the province. Insights gathered help CRPS refine school-based initiatives and its Four-Year Education Plan, ensuring student needs remain at the heart of decision-making. The survey is voluntary and anonymous, but each response matters - guiding policies, resources, and improvements that benefit all learners. Parents are advised to watch for their invitation and encouraged to take a few minutes to share their perspective, as every voice strengthens CRPS schools.

## Grade 10 Students Learn to Navigate the Backcountry

Thanks to the **Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation** and support from **Lake Louise Ski Resort and Summer Gondola** (LLSR), this year 110 Grade 10 students from Canmore Collegiate High School and Banff Community High School took part in the Wim & Nancy Pauw Wilderness Experience (WimWe), a program designed to build outdoor leadership and safety skills. Among its six immersive adventures, students earn Avalanche Canada's Avalanche

Skills Training (AST) 1 certification, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to assess avalanche risks and respond to emergencies. Before heading into the field, students complete classroom instruction and hands-on training with certified guides, learning how decision-making and teamwork impact backcountry safety. Read all about it through "[Empowering Students with Outdoor Safety Skills Through WimWe.](#)"

## CRPS Trustees Receive National Recognition

Education extends beyond the classroom, shaping the very foundation of a community. On Jan. 22, 2025, this impact was formally recognized as Senator Karen Sorensen presented the [King Charles III Coronation Medal](#) to the Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) Board of Trustees. The first coronation medal issued in Canada since Queen Elizabeth II's reign, this distinction honours individuals who have made lasting contributions at the local, provincial, and national levels. Trustees **Brian Callaghan, Dale Craig, Carol Picard, Arlene Rheume, and Luke Sunderland** have exemplified leadership, advocacy, and service, ensuring that students, educators, and families have the resources to thrive. Their governance has strengthened infrastructure, expanded student supports, and deepened partnerships that enrich learning. Superintendent **Christopher MacPhee** commended their dedication, emphasizing their unwavering commitment to student success.

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

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