



THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest
March 26, 2025

Strengthening Minds, One Connection at a Time

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' (CRPS) Right From the Start team continues to bring mental health education to life for all Kindergarten through Gr. 8 students. Presenting to the Board, March 26, 2025, Success Coaches **Kat Wiebe**, **Megan Jenniex** and **Deren Alward** alongside Program Manager **Eileen McCabe**, shared their approach to helping students build resilience through lessons on empathy, problem-solving, emotion regulation and more. Programs like Second Step, Zones of Regulation and Open Parachute help translate complex ideas into age-appropriate strategies. Each school tailors its approach to reflect its unique community, offering creative initiatives such as Grandpals, the Mental Health T-Shirt Contest and even a free screening of "Inside Out 2." The work doesn't stop when the school year ends. In addition to being present at summer markets, programming over the summer months includes roller skating, outdoor games and CALM mindfulness sessions, helping students stay connected and supported. Learn more at [Right from the Start](#). ■

Mark Your Calendars

The Board of Trustees approved CRPS' 2025/26 Learning Calendar, March 26, 2025, following thorough input from school leaders, staff, and trustees. The year includes 194.5 operational days, 180 instructional days, and designated time for professional learning and teacher preparation. Students will return to class on Aug. 26, with staff beginning on Aug. 21. The winter holiday will begin at 12 noon on Dec. 19 and run through Jan. 2, while spring break is scheduled from March 30 to April 10. Fourteen half-day and five full-day professional learning sessions are built into the year, alongside two and a half days for parent/teacher/student conferences and organizational purposes. To help families plan ahead, draft calendars for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 school years have also been approved in principle. All three calendars will be available shortly on the division website under the "About Us" section, giving parents and staff time to prepare for the years ahead. ■

Passport to Paris

A group of Canmore Collegiate High School French Language Arts 10 and 20 students could soon

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

find themselves strolling Parisian boulevards as part of an immersive French language and cultural experience planned for spring break 2026. Teachers and administrators are working with EF Educational Tours to build a rich itinerary that brings students face-to-face with the history, art and everyday life of France. The trip is subject to final approval from the Board of Trustees, pending completion of all required documentation and planning procedures. A parent presentation is in the works, and students are preparing to fund raise to help cover the cost of travel. The school aims to offer this experience every second year, giving learners a meaningful extension to their studies and continuing the pathway started by the Lawrence Grassi Middle School Quebec exchange for Gr. 7 and 8 French Immersion students. If approved, learning will leap off the page and into the heart of Paris. ■





CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Date:

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for April 30, 2025, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Exshaw School.

Summer CALM Program

The reputation of the Canadian Rockies Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC) continues to grow, and word of mouth has once again fueled record demand for its **Summer CALM Program**. To meet increasing interest, CRPS added 150 more spots for the summer 2025, and now only a few spots remain open for the week of June 16-20, 2025. This five-day, four-night program immerses students in hands-on learning in Kananaskis Country, combining curriculum outcomes with real-world experiences in wellness, leadership, financial literacy, and communication. Students earn 10 Alberta Education credits through a mix of pre-course assignments and experiential learning, supported by an experienced instructional team. Over the 11 weeks, two courses run each week with 25 students per group, with shared activities that foster community and connection.

A Salute to Service

Canmore Collegiate High School's **Rob VanderLee** was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal on Feb. 20 during a formal presentation at Calgary's McDougall House. Presented by Lieutenant Governor **Salma Lakhani**, the honour recognized Rob for his 44 years of leadership in Cadet programs - 38 as a Cadet Instructor Cadre member. Within CRPS, Rob has shaped Remembrance Day ceremonies for nearly three decades, often leading services, coordinating veteran visits, and encouraging student participation in Legion contests. His deep commitment to honouring veterans has left a lasting impression on schools and communities across the Bow Valley.

Showcasing the Halls of Learning

Banff Community High School and Canmore Collegiate High School opened their doors this month to students, families and community members eager to explore the vibrant world of Gr. 9 to 12 learning. The open houses offered visitors a look into the heart of each school. Guests moved from room to room, drawn in by the energy of science labs bubbling with experiments, thoughtful conversations in English classes and the quiet power of student art that spoke volumes. Projects in robotics, media arts, and culinary studies showed the range of opportunities students are offered to build confidence and skill. Teachers and students alike shared insights into daily learning, creating a sense of connection and curiosity. For many guests, the experience sparked pride in the community's young people and the education that helps shape their growth into informed, capable and creative citizens.

More Time, More Voices

Alberta Education has extended the deadline for its annual assurance survey to **March 28, 2025**, giving parents additional time to share their feedback. The survey helps build a clearer picture of what's working well and where schools can grow, particularly in areas like student well-being and learning conditions. Parents and guardians of students in Grades 4, 7, and 10 who received a mailed survey package but have not yet responded online are encouraged to take a few minutes to contribute. A strong response rate means a stronger foundation for school and system improvement. Each completed survey adds depth to the collective understanding of how students are doing and what supports they need the most.

CUPE 4306 Negotiations Take Shape

Negotiations between CRPS and CUPE 4306 were in full swing this week with two days of focused discussions. Both teams arrived ready to collaborate on areas of shared interest. The tone around the table remained respectful and solution-oriented, with a shared interest in achieving a fair and sustainable agreement. The Division remains committed to recognizing the important contributions of CUPE 4306 members while maintaining the financial health of the system into the future. Constructive dialogue will continue when both parties return to the table with meetings planned in late April and again in early May 2025.

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

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