



November 14, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you may have heard within your community and in the media over the past couple of weeks, following the release of the Alberta government's 2019 budget on Oct. 24, 2019, Rocky View Schools (RVS) identified a \$10 million budget shortfall for the 2019/20 school year. This shortfall is due to the elimination of Alberta's class size grants and school/transportation fee replacement grants.

Recognizing that this has caused some angst within our communities, we want to assure you that the Board of Trustees intends to minimize the impact of this budget shortfall on students to the greatest extent possible and is dedicated to providing the best education we can afford our students.

Earlier today, the Board directed RVS' administration to prepare a fall budget that addresses the \$10 million shortfall by:

- Utilizing system and school reserves,
- Avoiding mid-year staffing reductions,
- Introducing additional student transportation fees to offset the loss of the government's Transportation Fee Replacement Grant.

On Nov. 28, 2019, administration will be recommending a fall budget proposal to the Board that will bring down central reserves by \$4.325 million and school reserves by \$1 million, reduce Education Centre budgets by \$1.529 million and school budgets by \$1.753 million.

If approved by the Board, school administrators will be asked to reduce their spring budgets by \$40/student, generating \$1 million towards RVS' revenue shortfall. The remaining \$753,000 will be drawn from monies held back this fall in anticipation of potential provincial budget cuts. Based on our budget committee's review of school budgets, the reduction of \$40/student by school will range from \$5,800 to \$43,300. We are confident school administrators will be able to achieve this budget reduction with minimal impact to students.

The Board also approved today to offset the \$1.4 million transportation shortfall through the implementation of a \$308 fee applicable to riders who attend their designated school and live 2.4 km or further from that school. Families impacted by the additional student transportation fee will receive further information on this by the end of the month.

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| Ward 1 | Ward 2 | Ward 3 | Ward 3 | Ward 3 | Ward 4 | Ward 5 | Ward 6 |
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Recognizing that the use of reserves is not sustainable and that the implementation of new or increased fees has an impact on families, our Board intends to reach out to our school communities in coming months to help establish budget priorities for next year in preparation for a challenging 2020/21 budget.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this difficult process of adjusting budgets mid-year to address grant changes made by government. We look forward to engaging with you in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Fiona Gilbert
Board Chair, Rocky View Schools

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