



# THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest  
June 21, 2023

## Pauw Foundation to Receive Friends of Education Award

Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) received word, June 2, 2023, that the Alberta School Boards Association's (ASBA) Zone 5 has selected the division's nomination of the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation to receive a provincial "ASBA Friends of Education" award! The award recognizes organizations who are demonstrably committed to improving education for students and who have made a significant contribution to education in Alberta. In its letter to the Pauw Foundation, Zone 5, which represents nine school boards in and surrounding Calgary, said it was heartening to learn "how the Pauw Foundation continues to help CRPS break down barriers, enrich learning opportunities, and fuel the health and well-being of all students through student scholarships, learning resources and classroom enhancements, and funding for student leadership and student-led initiatives." The provincial award recipients will be formally announced at the ASBA's Fall General Meeting (FGM) in November! The Pauw Foundation will be invited to the FGM and celebrated by boards across the

province for its contributions to public education and specifically CRPS! ■

## Board Approves Synthetic Biology as Locally Developed Course for 2023/24

Bringing the total number of Locally Developed Courses offered in CRPS to 89, the Board approved the offering of a three credit course dedicated to Synthetic Biology 15. The course was of huge interest to students this year, offering them the opportunity to redesign organisms for useful purposes by engineering them to have new abilities. Locally developed courses help meet the needs of students and engage those at risk of leaving school early. In some cases, the courses also help to promote successful transitions to further education by exposing students to advanced subject matter. ■

## School Council Membership to ASCA Secured

Approved June 21, CRPS' Board of Trustees will renew its school councils' membership with the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA). Through membership, parents

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

are able to access on-line training, resources, and advice on their roles and responsibilities. As a member, each school council also has a voice in putting forward advocacy resolutions they would like the government to consider. CRPS' Board also will apply for the ASCA's Engagement Grant, which provides \$500 to each school council to support and strengthen their engagement with parents. Stay tuned! ■

## CCHS Students to Represent Canmore in Japan

Canmore Collegiate High School (CCHS) students have been selected to represent Canmore at the 8th International High School Students' Photo Festival Exchange in Higashikawa, Japan, from August 19 to

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August 27, 2023. Located almost in the center of Hokkaido in Japan, Higashikawa has been known as the “Town of Photography” since June 1985, when it began collecting and publicly featuring images from around the world through international exchange. One staff member and three students will be traveling to

Higashikawa to share their images related to this year’s theme, “The Charm of Your Region,” as well as serve as ambassadors for Canmore. The Town of Higashikawa covers the entire cost of the trip. ■

### **CBO Summer Hours**

CRPS’ Central Board Office (CBO)

hours will be scaled back from July 1 to August 18. During this schedule, the office will be open Mondays to Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and be closed on Fridays. In lieu of July 1 falling on a Saturday, the office also will be closed Monday, July 3, 2023. Regular office hours will resume on August 21, 2023. ■

## CRPS Tidbits

### **Important Calendar Dates**

**August School Board Meeting** - The Board of Trustees’ next regular meeting is set for August 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central Board Office in Canmore.

### **CRPS Aligns School Reports to Assurance Model**

Two new acronyms school councils will want to note: SEP, which stands for School Education Plan, and SARR, meaning School Annual Results Reports. To realign the division’s reporting requirements to Alberta’s assurance model, beginning the 2023/24 school year, all schools will be required to collaboratively develop a SARR by November 30 and a SEP by April 1. SARRs are rear window documents that analyze the past performance of a school in relation to the performance measures outlined in CRPS’ Four-Year Education Plan. SEPs are dashboard plans defining a school’s strategic priority action steps to achieve continuous improvement. Templates for both reports will be released next year. A prominent component of both manuals is the requirement to

have school councils involved in their review. Stay tuned!

### **CRPS Secretary-Treasurer Role Redefined**

CRPS faced the perfect storm following the departure of Secretary-Treasurer **Mike Guindon** in early June. Not unlike the province’s substitute teacher shortage, secretary-treasurers are in hot demand across western Canada, with several boards left with vacant positions. Due to the quick thinking of Deputy Superintendent **Debbie McKibbin**, CRPS divided the role to leverage the corporate services talent of a current staff member and to hire a Chartered Accountant that could lead the division’s financial affairs. Announced June 13, **Cheryl Jensen** will join CRPS as its new Treasurer / Associate Superintendent, and **Konstantin Gregovic** will serve as its new Secretary / Associate Superintendent. Cheryl will be responsible for maintaining the financial health of CRPS, including the development and submission of its budget and audited financial statements. Konstantin will lead all matters affecting corporate services, transportation, maintenance, and capital projects.

### **Banff Culinary Studies Construction Takes Off**

Construction of Banff Community High School’s new culinary arts centre is underway. Two classrooms by Purkis Hall will be converted into a professional culinary kitchen by August! Visitors to the school can still use the Beaver Street entrance but will need to be mindful of the work going on and follow the signage for areas that are not accessible to anyone other than the work crew. Featured below, the floor has been dug out to install the new sanitation lines. BCHS is excited to start the new school year with this fabulous new resource that will enhance the learning experience for students and open opportunities for hosting community events.



## **“Inspiring Hearts and Minds” - CRPS’ Board of Trustees**

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