



Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest March 18, 2024

CRPS Advocacy Priorities to Steer Future Learning

At Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) March 18 Board Meeting, trustees unveiled [three advocacy priorities](#) to empower the Bow Valley's public education system: Transformational Learning Opportunities, Continuity of Learning, and Strategic Well-Being Investments. Serving as a conduit between the community and local and provincial decision-makers, the first advocacy priority, "Transformational Learning Opportunities," calls for investments in literacy, numeracy, and skills vital for students to navigate the future, especially for those from vulnerable demographics. It also outlines the need for funding security to ensure smaller boards do not need to rely on external funding to support transformational learning opportunities. The second priority, "Continuity of Learning," advocates for provincial partnerships to help the board navigate financial challenges unique to the Bow Valley area like the cost of housing. Lastly, the board stresses the need for "Strategic Mental Health Investments," urging for enhanced mental health support to foster secure, supportive educational atmospheres, in unison with community and non-profit

resources. Moving forward, these priorities, which underscore the board's mission to secure the best outcomes for all students in their charge, will be reviewed annually at the beginning of each school year. ■

Charting the Future - 2025 - 2029 Four Year Planning Process Gets Underway

CRPS has charted a transformative path for the development of its 2025- 2029 Four Year Education Plan. The process, released through the communique, "[Inspiring Hearts & Minds](#)," outlines a 14-month planning initiative involving all stakeholders—parents, community members, businesses, trustees, staff, and students—as collaborative partners in laying out a strategic roadmap attuned to the community's pulse.

CRPS has already begun to hear from the voices that matter most. In November, parents expressed content with their engagement in their child's education, though daily demands sometimes limit involvement. They value teacher communication but saw room for improved consistency and reach. In late January, student leadership teams echoed the need for choice, relevant and interactive

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

learning, clear progress feedback, and safe, well-managed classrooms with high expectations. These insights will serve as a foundation from which CRPS will move forward.

Community consultation activities will continue this spring through to February 2025 when a draft plan will be presented to the board for approval. Look to the communique linked above for full details! ■

Celebrating Indigenous Achievements at CCHS

The Board of Trustees beamed with pride over the remarkable achievements of Canmore Collegiate High School (CCHS) Indigenous students this year. Two seniors are stepping confidently into their futures, with one accepted to the University of New Brunswick and another poised

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to pursue Early Childhood Education at Mount Royal University. The journeys of academic exploration continue for two eleventh graders, each awarded the Verna J. Kirkness Education Foundation Program opportunity; one is headed to the University of Calgary and the other to UBC, both for fully-funded research experiences in July. With three more students eagerly anticipating post-

secondary responses, the community watches with excitement as these young scholars carve paths toward bright futures.

Extra Nutrition Grant Monies Received for 2023/24

Further to the February provincial announcement that school divisions would receive additional grant

funding to support student nutrition in the 2023/24 school year, CRPS has received \$49,777, which it will infuse into its existing nutrition programs.

Alberta's Nutrition Grant provides funding to school divisions to create, continue or enhance existing nutrition programs in schools. Most programs are designed to provide one nutritious meal per school day plus snacks. ■

CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Date

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for April 24, 2024, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Banff Elementary School.

CRPS' Student Hiring Fair - March 27, 2024!

On March 27, 2024, CCHS' gymnasium will transform into a bustling hub of opportunity, as it welcomes over 700 Grade 9 to 12 students from CCHS and BCHS for a Student Hiring Fair. The event, running from 9 to 11 a.m., offers local businesses and organizations a unique platform to connect directly with the area's emerging talent pool, providing a face-to-face recruitment experience that is second to none. Over 40 businesses from across the spectrum – from retail and hospitality to skilled trades, automotive, real estate, provincial and national parks, administration, and non-profits – will be in attendance, promising students the opportunity to find part-time employment, or Registered Apprenticeship and work experience placements.

CRPS Leaders Forge Collaborative Path to Nurture Student Well-Being

Superintendent Chris MacPhee and Director of Learning Services Mike Shoemaker are leading a new initiative focused on student well-being through the "Bow Valley Wellness Committee." This diverse team includes members from education, health, and community sectors, working together to enhance students' overall well-being. Since January, they have met twice, united in the belief that promoting student wellness is a collective responsibility that extends beyond school boundaries. The committee is examining existing information and current practices to spot areas for improvement. Their goal is to develop comprehensive wellness strategies that can be easily incorporated into daily school routines and adopted by the wider community. This reflects a shared commitment to fostering a healthy environment for students, showing that the whole community plays a role in supporting their well-being.

Braeden Kelly: CRPS' Nomination for the 2024 Edwin Parr Award



CRPS is thrilled to announce the nomination of Braeden Kelly for the Alberta School Board Association's (ASBA) 2024 Zone 5 Edwin Parr Award. In his first year of teaching, Braeden has made his mark as an Outdoor Experiential Learning teacher, enriching over 1,000 students from six schools with more than 40 innovative outdoor education programs. He has been further credited with working collaboratively with 40 teachers in fostering a learning environment that deeply respects and integrates First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives. Please join CRPS in congratulating Braeden on this well-deserved recognition.

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

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