



THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest
April 30, 2025

Difficult Decision Aims to Protect Educational Quality

Following a prolonged pattern of uncertainty and broken commitments, Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) Board of Trustees approved, April 30, to reduce approximately 150 of the 306 seats currently dedicated for Stoney Nakoda Nation students, beginning September 2025. The decision comes after Indigenous Services Canada confirmed it could only commit to half of the agreed tuition for the upcoming year, with no assurances beyond March 2026. Superintendent **Christopher MacPhee** said the decision was made to protect the educational experience of all students, adding that without reliable funding, the entire division's financial stability, and its students success, are at risk. CRPS will continue to support approximately 150 Stoney Nakoda Nation students attending Alpenglow, Elizabeth Rummel, Lawrence Grassi and Canmore Collegiate schools, including Exshaw students transitioning from Gr. 8 to CCHS. The Board remains committed to Indigenous student success and is advocating for a long-term, legally binding Tripartite Agreement between CRPS, SEA and ISC. Such a partnership

would offer the stable foundation needed to honour Truth and Reconciliation and ensure all students receive the support they deserve. ■

Trustee Code Refreshed to Reflect Today's Governance Landscape

The Board of Trustees updated its Policy 4: Trustee Code of Conduct to better reflect current governance expectations and recent legislative changes. The revised policy strengthens clarity around conflict of interest, confidentiality, and trustee conduct during public and in-camera meetings. These refinements aim to support respectful communication and reinforce the Board's commitment to transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership in public education. As part of this update, the Board added a comprehensive appendix outlining the process for addressing alleged breaches of the Code. The appendix details how complaints may be filed, reviewed and resolved through a structured hearing process that ensures fairness, confidentiality and due process for all involved. By formalizing these steps, the Board reinforces a strong internal framework

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

that supports a healthy governance culture while aligning with Bill 51, which shifts the authority to disqualify trustees from boards to voters. Regular policy review remains part of the Board's commitment to sound governance. ■

Small Changes, Stronger Clarity

On April 30, trustees were informed of minor updates to two Administrative Procedures (AP). AP 100, which guides the development of the Four Year Education Plan, has been revised to align more closely with upcoming strategic directions. AP 356, which addresses student suspension and expulsion, was also updated to align with the Education Act. While the edits are not extensive, they reflect the Division's ongoing commitment to clear, timely, and responsive governance. ■





Important Calendar Date:

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for May 21, 2025, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Central Board Office in Canmore.

One More Shot to Shine

Students at Banff Community High School and Canmore Collegiate High School have a little more time to tell their story - the deadline for the Board of Trustees Legacy Scholarship has been extended to May 16, 2025. Created by the current Board of Trustees, the \$5,000 fund recognizes Gr. 11 and 12 students who bring Alberta Education's Student Competencies to life in creative, thoughtful, and community-minded ways. Whether it's critical thinking, global citizenship, or a bold act of collaboration, students are invited to share their journeys through a written piece, video, podcast, or other media submission. Each application also requires a reference from someone who can speak to the student's contributions and character. Finalists will be recognized at their school's award ceremony and featured in CRPS communications. Funds can be used for a variety of post-secondary pursuits, including tuition, housing, or apprenticeship programs. For students with a story to tell and the drive to lead, this is a chance to turn lived experience into educational opportunity.

Students Step onto the Global Stage at G7 Mock Summit

Grade 10 & 11 students from the Bow Valley will soon experience diplomacy firsthand as they take part in a G7 Mock Summit on May 15 at Canmore Collegiate High School and the Canmore Recreation Centre. Students from Banff Community High School, Canmore Collegiate High School, Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Academy and Notre Dame des Monts, will come together to represent G7 countries including Canada, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Japan. About 150 students will take part, working through real-world themes such as preparing for future careers, environmental collaboration and building a more peaceful and secure world. The event mirrors the upcoming G7 Summit in Kananaskis this June and offers students valuable skills in research, negotiation and public speaking, promising a memorable opportunity for students to deepen their global awareness and leadership abilities.

Kindergarten Test Drive at BES Held in May

Banff Elementary School welcomes future kindergarten students on May 21 at 1 p.m. for an afternoon of engaging, hands-on activities that spark curiosity and confidence. While children explore their new learning environment, parents will enjoy tea and conversation with school administrators. This warm introduction highlights how BES supports early learners through connection, creativity and care. With Principal Jason Billings on hand to answer questions and share insights, the event offers a

meaningful look at how the school prepares children and their families for a strong and supported start to school life.

Clear the Way for the G7

On May 22, Grade 9 students from Banff Community High School will join forces with the Friends of Kananaskis and the Canadian Rockies Outdoor Learning Centre to support environmental restoration ahead of the G7 summit. Clearing overgrown buffalo berry bushes from trails near Kananaskis Village, students will contribute to both community safety and ecological health in a region untouched since 2010. This full-day stewardship effort offers youth a real-world connection to conservation, while highlighting their role in preparing this iconic Alberta landscape for an international spotlight.

Driven by Dedication and Kindness

On May 5, staff and students across CRPS will be showing heartfelt appreciation for the school bus drivers who keep our days running smoothly. Rain, snow, ice and frigid temperatures do not stop these committed professionals from getting students safely to school and home again. Their calm presence, quick thinking and daily care make a difference in the lives of hundreds of children across the Bow Valley. Whether navigating tricky roads at sunrise or greeting students with a familiar wave after a long day, these drivers embody the quiet reliability that helps make each school day possible. To every driver on every route, thank you for being there.

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

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