



THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest
June 17, 2025

Inclusion in CRPS is How We Think, Act, and Support One Another!

At the June 17 Board of Trustees meeting, Director of Learning Services **Mike Shoemaker** reaffirmed the division's commitment to inclusion as a core value shaping every classroom and school in Canadian Rockies Public School (CRPS). Presenting with Learning Services Coordinator **Dr. Fiona Watkins**, Shoemaker outlined the foundational principles guiding the division's approach, emphasizing that inclusion is not a program or place, but a values-based way of thinking and acting that ensures all students experience belonging and meaningful learning. At its core, the duo concluded that inclusion is everyone's responsibility; it starts with strong relationships, collaboration, and a deep understanding of student needs. CRPS staff work as responsive teams to trial and refine strategies that remove barriers and build access points for every learner. Inclusion means all students are seen, supported, and celebrated - whether learning in a classroom, participating in a flexible environment, or engaging in school-wide activities like CRPS' new student advisory teams. It also

means that diversity is welcomed as essential to student growth and community strength. With universal programming that fosters empathy and safety, CRPS schools are places where all students belong and learn together. ■

More Choice, More Voice in High School Learning

Over 30 locally developed courses where approved by the board, June 17, bringing the total number of courses accessible to high school students to 116. These courses, which include student favourites like Forensic Studies, Water Experiences, Winter Travel, and Instrumental Jazz, allow CRPS to tailor education to student interests while meeting the unique needs of the Bow Valley. Newer offerings such as Developing Personal Integrity and Artificial Intelligence 35 reflect a future-ready focus and respond to student curiosity about real-world challenges. Locally developed courses are reviewed by Alberta Education and approved by the board to ensure rigour and relevance. They offer greater flexibility, encourage innovation, and support students in finding meaningful connections to

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

learning. By aligning programming with local priorities, CRPS continues to create space for creativity, wellness, and student voice in shaping their educational experiences. ■

Strengthening Opportunities for Students Through Community Support

CRPS expresses its profound gratitude once again for the generous support from the **Wim & Nancy Pauw Foundation and Improvement District 9** for the 2025/26 school year. The Pauw Foundation's \$1.1 million donation, representing nearly a 10 per cent increase from last year, will directly enhance student access to athletics, outdoor pursuits, experiential learning, wellness programming, wrap-around supports, and academic enrichment, reducing

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financial barriers for families across the division. In addition, CRPS received \$58,500 in approved grant-in-aid funding from ID9 to support both the Outdoor Learning Centre and Banff Elementary School. At BES, \$20,000 will go toward school-based programming, including \$15,000 for Mountain Living and Nature Explorers, and \$5,000 for robotics kits to enhance the Maker Space. The Outdoor Learning Centre will receive \$38,500 to continue delivering immersive, land-based learning experiences. CRPS deeply values the partnerships that help nurture student

wellness, curiosity, and success both inside and outside the classroom. ■

Charting the Future of BCHS Lands

The Board unanimously approved launching “Futures Planning” for the Banff Community High School (BCHS) lands, setting in motion a collaborative visioning process focused on programming, partnerships, and long-term opportunities for CRPS students. With the recent approval of the Canadian Rockies Collegiate Institute that includes both program

and infrastructure funding, trustees agreed that the timing is right to revisit earlier discussions and re-imagine the potential of this unique site. The goal is to align land use with student learning needs, community aspirations, and future growth. Board members noted that while past planning paused due to capacity and external development pressures, there is now renewed momentum and an opportunity to think boldly. Planning sessions and community engagement will get underway during the upcoming school year. ■



Important Calendar Date:

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for August 27, 2025, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Central Board Office in Canmore.

CRPS Seeks Five Host Families for International Students

CRPS is looking for five new host families to welcome international students this fall. With several long-time hosts moving, the division hopes to fill the gap and continue offering students a safe, warm place to call home. A five-month trial option from September to January makes it easy for families to try hosting without a year-long commitment. Each host receives \$1,375 per month to help with expenses, but the true rewards come from cultural connection, new friendships, and the experience of supporting a student's Canadian learning journey. International student tuition also benefits all CRPS learners, contributing directly to classroom staffing and programming. Whether you're looking to expand your family's world view, offer your child a sibling experience, or simply share your love of the Bow Valley, now is the time. Families interested in learning more are encouraged to fill out this [short interest form](#) to get started.

Preparing for Change with Care and Clarity

As Alberta's Bill 27 and Bill 29 come into effect Sept. 1, CRPS is reviewing related administrative procedures to reflect new legislative requirements. These include protocols around name or pronoun changes, counselling supports, and parental consent. Under the new legislation, school staff must wait to use a student's preferred name or pronouns until after a parent consultation, and for those under 16, formal consent is required. Counselling will be offered before notifying parents when there's concern of potential harm or at the student's request. Consent procedures for multi-session

counselling are being explored. The changes apply only to new cases moving forward. In addition, any instruction related to gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality will now require parents to opt students in, and external learning materials must receive ministerial approval. Further guidance, including updated procedures, will be shared with families next fall.

CBO Summer Office Hours Shift to Four-Day Week Beginning July

CRPS' Central Board Office (CBO) will once again operate on a modified summer schedule, a practice consistent with other Alberta school districts. Beginning June 30, 2025, the office will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office will be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. As Canada Day falls on July 1, the office will also be closed that day in observance of the national holiday. Regular office hours will resume on Aug. 18, 2025.

“Inspiring Hearts and Minds” - CRPS' Board of Trustees

Brian Callaghan

Chair

E brian.callaghan@crps.ca

Arlene Rheume

Vice Chair

E arlene.rheume@crps.ca

Carol Picard

Trustee

E carol.picard@crps.ca

Luke Sunderland

Trustee

E luke.sunderland@crps.ca

Dale Craig

Trustee

E dale.craig@crps.ca