

# November Newsletter    Trustee Hunter Ward 5

The fall is a busy time of year for Trustees and the Board as much of planning for the upcoming year has

## SCHOOL COUNCIL INFORMATION

Reminder to School Councils, that the Board posted an online session for new council members that may be useful. Link is

<https://www.rockyview.ab.ca/families/schoolcouncilswebportal/assets/school-council-orientation-october-15-2020>

Joint / Board School councils meeting by ZOOM. November 12, 2020. A link will be going out to School Council Chairs. There will be a presentation related to "Student Mental Health" issues

At this time, the Board is unsure if there will be an Alberta School Councils Conference normally held in the spring.

Alberta School Boards Association will be holding its annual general meeting November 16-17.

## COVID UPDATE

Our school division continues to have COVID cases. While the number of cases is small, the impact can be quite serious impacting many families of students and staff. Community spread continues to rise, consequently we can anticipate increased school cases. The Board has been working with AHS to try and improve the contact tracing process.

## FEBRUARY TRANSITION

The Board is planning for the February 1, switch over to on-line or in person learning. Be prepared for further information around how to make your choice.

## NEWS ABOUT SCHOOLS

Rockyview School Division has a number of innovative learning environments designed to meet the needs of students. The most recent program is called the Farm. I had the privilege of visiting the Farm November 3. The program has 40 students enrolled. The Farm is located on a 15 acres parcel of land that has been donated to the Board for this purpose. The program has been widely supported by the agricultural community. Students take their studies in two Atco trailers that have been moved to the site for that purpose. The Farm currently has chickens, goats, pigs, turkeys. Students collect eggs, milk the goats and feed the pigs. Students have built a number of the outbuildings that house the animals. Students have built a wooden sidewalk to facilitate accessibility for students with mobility issues.

Students to whom I spoke indicated a high level of satisfaction with the program. They felt the program met their learning needs and felt the program would facilitate their aspirations for a career in agriculture.

The teachers leading the program continue to expand the opportunities that are offered.

The Provincial government increased the IMR (Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal ) and CMR (Capital Maintenance Renewal) funding this year to assist Boards in dealing with COVID and infrastructure needs. As a result here are some of the improvements that will be seen in West Rocky View Schools.

Springbank Middle School:

Bathroom upgrades

Roof repair

Patch and paint hallways

Replace flooring in office and office hallways

Sand and refinish gym floor

Asphalt repaving

Elbow Valley

Dismantle lagoon and pump

Banded Peak

Sand and refinish gym floor

Roof replacement

Springbank High School

Reroof portables

Roof replacement

Duct cleaning

Westbrook School

Demolition of old school

Good news for Springbank High School, Rockyview Council will be installing crosswalk lighting so that students can cross Range Road 33 safely. Thank you to Kim McKylor for that action.

I hope everyone stays safe.