

## March 2014 School Council Report

- New school calendar was passed at the March 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The survey results as well as comments are posted on the website in the March 6 Board meeting info.
  - After Labour Day start
  - Last day before Christmas is Dec 19 (2 weeks off for Christmas)
  - Week off in February
  - Easter Holidays follow Good Friday
- Throne speech – development of a new student center curriculum that will ensure a strong understanding of basic literacy and numeracy. This has not changed since the beginning of the curriculum redesign.
- Provincial Budget did not give and increase in per pupil funding. The 3.2% mentioned in the media will only fund the extra students in the system. With inflation, grid rollout etc, we'll be in a deficit mode. We'll be having our Board budget meetings in the near future.
- As of August 31, 2013, RVS reserves totaled \$18.6 million, which were largely derived through the sale of property owned by the jurisdiction.
  - Of this total, committed reserves for 2013/14 include:
    - \$3.2 million in school generated funds
    - \$4 million sit at the school level
    - \$1.7 million for capital replacement of vehicles and equipment
    - \$4 million in planned expenditures, such as new school administrators coming on-line to open new schools and furniture for new portables.
    - Unrestricted reserves total \$5.7 million, which represents operating funds for 5.6 days and sound fiscal governance.
- In 10 years, RVS is expected 93% increase in student enrollments. (need 2 new schools per year). By 2018 we'll have jurisdictional utilization of 102.3% inclusive of all approvals to date. By September 2014 8318 students (41.8%) will be in schools with overloaded cores.
- March 20<sup>th</sup> we approved the Capital Plan. For new schools in my area it has #3 new Chestermere K-9, #4 new Prince of Peace K-12 in first year, #7 new Langdon High School in second year and #9 new Langdon K-5 in 3<sup>rd</sup> year. We are also planning on using cash in lieu funds for various renovations and modernizations through out the division to the tune of \$16.7 million, including Indus School.
- No increase in instructional fees for next year.
- Transportation fees may need to increase again though because there's such a deficit. No increase in grants for 14/15 but we have contractual obligations for a 1.7 % increase for bus contractors. Still grappling with decrease in revenue from 13/14 Ab Ed grant.

