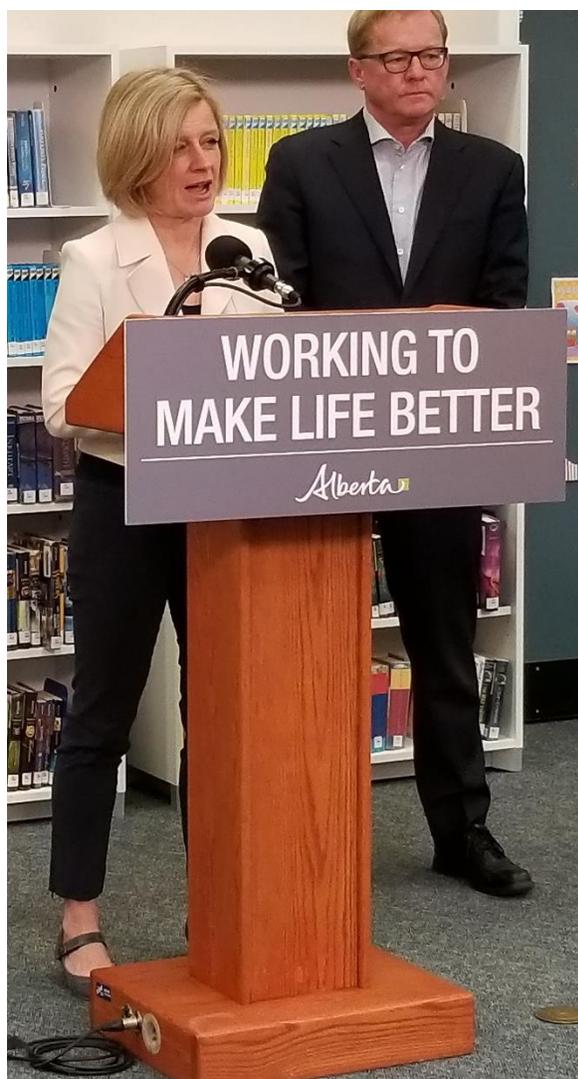


BRSO receives approval to replace school

There's going to be a school construction project starting in Battle River School Division.



One of the 20 school projects announced as part of the provincial budget on March 22 was the replacement of Chester Ronning School in Camrose.

The school, which serves about 280 students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 5, is located in the high-density neighbourhoods of northwest Camrose. At 50+ years of age, the school has been facing structural, electrical and mechanical issues in recent years, and the school division has had modernization of the facility at the top of its capital project request for a couple of years.

However, as representatives of the provincial government conducted audits and cost analysis, they came to the conclusion that replacing the school would be more cost effective than upgrading the existing facility.

Premier Rachel Notley and Education Minister David Eggen visited Camrose on the morning of March 27 to share the news with the school's families and staff.

Though it was a meeting arranged on short notice and in the middle of spring break, a crowd of nearly 100 people were in attendance to cheer the announcement.

Premier Rachel Notley (left) and Education Minister David Eggen (right) visited Camrose on March 27 to announce a replacement project for Chester Ronning School.



While many of the project specifics have yet to be determined, Minister Eggen estimated a construction budget of \$15 to \$17 million and a completion date for the 2022 / 2023 school year. The school will have the capacity to serve 350 students.

Premier Notley expressed her government’s belief that schools need to not only accommodate all the local students who live in their neighbourhood, they also need to be safe, healthy and inviting environments in which students can learn. She acknowledged that Chester Ronning School has many challenges and, while it remains a safe and caring school for students right now, attention must be paid to the growing need for a new facility.

Speaking on behalf of the Board at the announcement event, Camrose Trustee Val Sims expressed appreciation for the current building’s beauty and rich heritage. She paid homage to the man after whom the building was named, reminisced about her own family’s involvement with the school and expressed the school division’s excitement for watching a new Chester Ronning School come to life.

School Principal Brian Horbay and School Council Chair Kelly Kaczmarek both expressed appreciation for all that the current school has to offer, while also looking forward to an exciting time ahead.

Premier Notley and Minister Eggen took advantage of the opportunity to meet both current and future students of the school (along with their parents) and even added their handprints to the school’s Circle of Courage wall.



Premier Notley and Minister Eggen took advantage of the opportunity to meet local students and parents during their visit. They also added their handprints to the school’s Circle of Courage wall. (Thanks to Josh Aldrich of the Camrose Canadian for the handprint photo.) Below, a group photo of some of those in attendance – young and old



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