



BOARD NEWS

Central Office, 8611A-108 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V-4C5 | www.pwsd76.ab.ca

Inspiring all learners to become confident, collaborative and ethical citizens motivated with a passion to achieve a sustainable future.

Upcoming Events

School Bus Driver Appreciation Day Monday, May 2

An opportunity for students, parents and staff to recognize the important function that school bus drivers serve in safely transporting children to and from school.

Education Week May 2-6: Learning Together.

Mental Health Awareness Week May 2-6: Several PWSO schools will participate in 'Hats On! For Mental Health' on Wednesday, May 4. <http://mentalhealthweek.cmha.ca>

Northern Alberta Heritage Fair Thursday, May 5 Teresa Sargent Hall, Montrose Cultural Centre, Grande Prairie.

ASCA Webinar Wednesdays May 11: School Council Purpose May 18: Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose May 25: Chair Basics www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca

Upcoming High School Graduation Ceremonies

- Peace Wapiti Acad.: Sat., May 14
- Spirit River Reg. Acad.: Fri., May 20
- Ridgevalley School: Sat., May 21
- Beaverlodge Reg. High: Fri., May 27
- Sexsmith Secondary: Fri., May 27
- Eaglesham School: Sat., June 4
- PAVE: Fri., June 10
- Savanna School: Sat., August 6

Victoria Day Monday, May 23. No classes.

Next Board Meeting Thursday, May 26 10:30 a.m., Central Office.



Whispering Ridge Community School construction set to begin – Attendance boundary adjustments completed following community consultations

PWSO is pleased to announce that Graham Construction is the successful bidder for the construction of Whispering Ridge Community School (WRCS). The tendering process closed on April 12. In their bid, the company set estimated construction costs at \$15,792,000. The school was initially included in a larger announcement by the former government in October, 2014. With a contractor in place, construction is expected to begin late spring. A mid-year opening is planned for the 2017-2018 school year. To learn more about the new facility and view finalized floor plans and an architectural rendering of WRCS, supplied by Architects Tkalcic Bengert, click the New School button at www.pwsd76.ab.ca.

New school will bring changes to HBS attendance boundary

When WRCS opens, it will alleviate pressure created by growing enrolment at Harry Balfour School (HBS). PWSO hosted two sessions on March 22 and April 21 at HBS, led by Dr. Rodney Lee, former Deputy Superintendent at PWSO and Principal at HBS, to discuss upcoming changes to school attendance boundaries. Based on recommendations from the sessions, the Board announced plans for the HBS and WRCS attendance boundaries during their regular meeting on April 28.

The current HBS attendance area will be divided in the south along Highway 40 from the Wapiti River to Grande Prairie city limits. In the north, the boundary will run along Hwy. 2 from the Grande Prairie city limits, ending at the interchange with Hwy. 43 which

marks the start of Clairmont Community School's boundary line. The western portion of the current HBS attendance area will be assigned to WRCS, effective the 2017-18 school year. Families in the new WRCS attendance area who wish to remain at HBS will be required to provide transportation.

For the 2017-2018 school year, K-6 classes and teaching staff at HBS will be structured based on the school they will be attending when WRCS opens mid-year with a K-6 configuration. Grade 7 will be added to WRCS during the 2018-2019 school year, followed by Grade 8 in 2019-2020.

With the province's recent release of Budget 2016, families living in the eastern portion of the current HBS attendance area can expect changes sometime in the future. Listed among the government's approved but currently unfunded projects is a new K-8 school, located southeast of Grande Prairie – one of PWSO's identified top three capital projects. When it opens, this new school will see the closure of the current HBS. In preparation for this project, the Board will make a request to the County of Grande Prairie to designate an appropriate K-8 school site in proposed developments located southeast of Grande Prairie, preferably along Township Road 712.

Annexation-area students welcome to remain at HBS and PWA

To date, the Board has not received a decision from the Minister of Education as to whether he will change

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PWSD receives notice of termination from Western Cree Tribal Council

In response to the notice of termination of the Education Service Agreement which was sent to the PWSD Board by Western Cree Tribal Council (WCTC) in a letter dated January 26, 2016, the Board voted to notify WCTC that it requires a signed agreement that funds federal Horse Lake First Nation (HLFN) students at the same level as provincial PWSD First Nation Métis Inuit (FNMI) students, and payment in full of outstanding arrears to April 30, 2016 in the amount of \$1,431,503.

Should these conditions not be met by May 19, 2016, the Board will terminate educational services for the 2016-2017 school year for the approximately 170 HLFN students, and direct administration to proceed with a corresponding reduction in staff for the 2016-2017 school year.

Penson Grade 9's transferring to PWA

After reviewing responses gathered from an information session held at Penson School on March 21, the Board has approved the transfer of Penson School's Grade 9 programming to Peace Wapiti Academy (PWA), effective the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Key factors identified by families included easing the academic and social transition of Penson students to PWA, along with the enhanced Grade 9 course selection offered by PWA.

Annexation-area students welcome to remain at HBS and PWA

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or retain existing school boundaries as a result of the annexation of County lands by the City of Grande Prairie on January 1, 2016. Earlier this month, the Minister sent a letter to the PWSD Board, stating his intent to make a decision promptly. At the Board meeting held on April 28, the Board voted to immediately communicate to families who reside in the recently-annexed area of Grande Prairie that students currently enrolled at Peace Wapiti Academy (PWA) and HBS, and their younger siblings, are welcome to continue attending those schools. The Board will continue to request that the Minister make a decision regarding transportation funding.

Board meeting schedule established for upcoming school year

The Board meeting schedule for the 2016-2017 school year has been approved. As outlined in the schedule below, 10 meetings will be held at Central Office in Grande Prairie, and one meeting will be held at the Sub Office in Spirit River. The Board's organizational meeting will be held on September 8, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at Central Office, followed by a regular Board meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Board Meeting Date	Start time	Location
Thurs., Sept. 8 2016	11:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., Oct. 6, 2016	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., Oct. 27, 2016	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., Nov. 24, 2016	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., Dec. 8, 2016	10:30 a.m.	Sub Office, Spirit River
Thurs., Jan. 19, 2017	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., Feb. 23, 2017	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., Mar. 23, 2017	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., Apr. 27, 2017	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., May 25, 2017	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie
Thurs., June 22, 2017	10:30 a.m.	Central Office, Grande Prairie

PWSD BOARD NEWS

A report on news from Peace Wapiti Public School Division, published following each Board Meeting.

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PWSD school year calendar adjusted in response to feedback from families

After approving the 2016-2017 school year calendar in December, the Board voted to move spring break from April 10-17, 2017 to the week following Easter, April 14-21, 2017. This change will better facilitate diploma exams and allow families with connections to other local districts to coordinate spring break plans. The decision was informed by feedback collected from PWSD school communities.

Support for Reading University



Reading University is a local organization which provides valuable summer reading support to Grade 3 children. The Board approved a payment of \$200 for each resident PWSD student enrolled in the program.

Meeting Reports

Trustee McIntosh reported on the General School Councils' meeting held on April 12, and the CRM Steering Committee meeting held on April 13. Trustee Knull reported on the PSBC Council meeting held in Edmonton on April 14-16. Attendees reported on the ASCA Annual General Meeting held in Edmonton on April 22-24. Trustee Crane reported on the OHS meeting held on April 26.

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Yearly Demographic Review – Available online in the upcoming school year

In the past, families completed a paper demographic form each year to verify their child's information, such as address, phone number and emergency contact. In September, 2016, a new process will be in place to complete the demographic review online.

How will the new process work?

- The online demographic form will include the data currently on file.
- Parents will be asked to verify or correct demographic details online.

Schools will offer computer access to those who do not have a home computer or electronic device, or Internet service. Watch your school's newsletter for more details.