



Peace Wapiti Public School Division

JUNE 16, 2016

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

Diploma Exams
June 13-28

National Aboriginal Day
Tuesday, June 21
No Diploma Exams scheduled.

On Your Mark! Diploma Exam Tutorials
Saturday, June 18
Biology 30, Chemistry 30 and Math 30-2, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
GPRC, Rooms D208, D308 and A210

Saturday, June 25
Science 30 and Physics 30,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
GPRC, Rooms D208 and D308

Last day of classes
Tuesday, June 28
Enjoy the summer break!

Canada Day
Friday, July 1
PWSD offices closed.

Upcoming Graduation Ceremony
Savanna School
Saturday, August 6
Dinner at 4:30 p.m., ceremony at 6:30 p.m., Savanna Rec Plex.

Civic Holiday
Monday, August 1
PWSD offices closed.

First day of classes
Thursday, September 1

Labour Day
Monday, September 5
No classes. PWSD offices closed.

First Board meeting of the 2016-2017 school year
Thursday, September 8
Organizational meeting: 10:30 a.m.
Regular Board meeting: 11:30 a.m.
Central Office, Grande Prairie.

Distinguished Leader, Excellence in Teaching Award nominees honoured at PWSD's end-of-year Board meeting



Chair Dana McIntosh congratulates Distinguished Leader Award winner Principal Shawn O'Shea, Clairmont Community School.



Chair Dana McIntosh congratulates Excellence in Teaching Award nominee Karen Gonzales, Assistant Principal, Clairmont Community School.



Trustee Sharilyn Anderson congratulates Excellence in Teaching Award nominee Theresa Simmonds, Grades 5-6 teacher, Bonanza School.

PWSD recognizes Excellence in Teaching Award (ETA) nominees, semi-finalists, and finalists during the final Board meeting of the academic year, and other teaching and leadership award winners.

Distinguished Leader recognized

Principal Shawn O'Shea was recognized for his 2015-2016 Distinguished Leadership Award, presented by the Council for School Leadership (CSL). Mr. O'Shea was named among a list of 30 distinguished leaders representing school divisions across Alberta.

Award winners are school administrators and CSL members who demonstrate excellence in a range of criteria tied to Alberta's Principal Quality Leadership Framework. Nominees are judged by a selection committee awarding points on a five-point scale for each of the Principal Quality Leadership Competencies. Mr. O'Shea was recognized with a certificate at an awards dinner in Calgary on May 27 and will be included in an upcoming edition of CSL's *Leadership Update* newsletter.

Mr. O'Shea is a dedicated Principal who strives to serve his students, his staff, and his community. The Distinguished Leadership Award is proof of his commitment in these three areas. Now in his fifth year as Principal of Clairmont Community School, he has also served as Principal of Woking School and Assistant Principal at Peace Wapiti Academy. In September, he assumes the role of Principal Designate of the new Whispering Ridge Community School.

Excellence in Teaching Award nominees

Each year, parents, teacher-colleagues, principals, superintendents and all Albertans are encouraged to show their appreciation by nominating an outstanding teacher or principal for an Excellence in Teaching Award (ETA).

Karen Gonzales, Assistant Principal at Clairmont Community School (CCS) and **Theresa Simmonds**, Grades 5-6 homeroom teacher at Bonanza School were both recognized as ETA nominees.

Ms. Gonzales is noted for her ability to build relationships with students, staff and the community, earning the trust and respect of all. Karen is described by school staff as focused and motivated, and her dedication to her school and students is evidenced in everything she does. She joined CCS as a teacher in 2012, and advanced to Assistant Principal in 2014.

Ms. Simmonds joined Bonanza School in 2007 and is noted for mentoring fellow teachers and for excellence in teaching language arts. She also teaches social studies, science, art, music, French, and Career and Technology Foundations (CTF), has held various divisional professional development roles in CTF and Guided Reading, and served as Acting Principal and Language Arts Coordinator at Bonanza School.



Board approves 2016-2017 budget

The Board is required annually to approve the budget for submission to the Minister of Education by June 30. The Board voted to approve the 2016-2017 balanced budget with operating revenues of \$81,188,225 and operating expenditures of \$81,188,225, and to request Ministerial approval to fund the 2016-2017 budgeted transportation deficit of \$348,184 from Transportation Capital Reserves.

Under the new budget, the PWSD Board has committed to maintaining all existing instructional programming and services for students, despite the province's future economic uncertainty which could further impact the current slight decline in student enrolment. The province's Carbon Levy may also place a strain on PWSD's budgeted costs to heat school and office buildings, and provide fuel for its 104 school buses which travel more than 14,225 kilometres per day.

Additional strains are caused by ongoing issues with collecting tuition arrears and negotiating a fair tuition rate for Horse Lake students who attend PWSD schools; and compounding funding issues created by years of uncertainty in Alberta Education grants.

Friends of Education nominee named

PWSD has nominated the Grande Prairie Rotary Clubs for the Zone One Friends of Education Award. The nomination includes the Grande Prairie After Five, Grande Prairie Rotary, Grande Prairie Sunrise and Grande Prairie Swan City Clubs. Recipients will be recognized at the fall ASBA Zone meeting in Peace River on September 22.



Board approves policies

The PWSD Board gave final approval to *Policy IHF – Safe and Caring Learning Environment*. The Policy Review Committee met on May 18 to review feedback received to date and make final revisions. As part of the process for all Alberta School Boards, the policy has been submitted for Ministerial approval. No approval timeline has been provided by the Minister's office.

The Board also approved changes to *Policy BHD – Trustee Compensation and Expenses and Exhibit 1 – Compensation and Expense Rate Schedule*, effective June, 2016.

Horse Lake Report

Horse Lake Representative Joy Joachim informed the Board that the Witness Blanket will be on display at the Peace River Museum during July and August. Speakers for the Youth and Elders Conference have been named; National Aboriginal Day will be celebrated at Hythe Regional School on June 21; and the Horse Lake Awards Day will be held on June 25.

PWSD school offices will close on June 28

Online registration for new students available throughout the summer months

To register online at a PWSD school, click the 'Schools' tab at www.pwsd76.ab.ca, and then click the 'Register Online' button. A birth certificate and proof of address are required for new students. See ad below.



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New this year: Online registration

Is your child turning five in 2016?

Kindergarten Registration for the upcoming school year is ongoing at PWSD schools.

All families welcome. To register online and find a school near you, click the 'Schools' tab at www.pwsd76.ab.ca.

A birth certificate and proof of address are required for new students. Other documents, such as proof of residency and custody information may be required by the school office.



New colony school established

The Board approved a new colony school, located at Silver Valley Colony, offering Kindergarten - Grade 12 programming. The school will be named Silver Valley Colony School and the Board will apply to Alberta Education for a school number.



SILVER VALLEY COLONY SCHOOL

When the school opens in September, 2016, instruction will be provided by a teacher's aide and lessons will be augmented through the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC).

PWSD BOARD NEWS

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

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Committee and meeting reports

The **Communications Committee** met on June 8 to review tentative dates for Board school tours during the upcoming 2016-2017 school year, and to plan for grand opening events at the replacement Robert W. Zahara Public School and the modernization project at Teepee Creek School on Friday, October 14, 2016.

Trustee Moodie reported on the **Transportation Committee** meeting held on May 12.


Alberta School Boards Association

Attendees reported on the **ASBA Spring General Meeting** held in Red Deer on June 6-7, and the **PSBA Spring General Meeting** held in Red Deer on June 3-5.


PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

Trustee Bob Knull, **Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) committee** representative, provided the TEBA report.

For good news from PWSD and its schools, see the News & Announcements section at www.pwsd76.ab.ca.