



**PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL
DIVISION #76**
www.pwsd76.ab.ca
BOARD NEWS & EVENTS
November 17, 2011

Dates to Remember

Thurs. Dec. 8, 2011

Next Regular Board Meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Spirit River Sub Office.

Fri. Dec. 9, 2011

Our Children, Our Future: Getting It Right Meeting – Peace River
An opportunity to share your views about education in Alberta.
For more information and to register, please follow this link:

<http://ideas.education.alberta.ca/engage/current-initiatives/education-act-getting-it-right>.

Tues. Mar. 20, 2012

Next Joint School Board/School Councils Meeting Location TBA
6:00 p.m.

National Travel

PWA music students received approval to travel to Vancouver.

Collaboration

Trustees Bob Knull, Gerald Cooke and Wendy Kelm were appointed to serve on the Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISII) Steering Committee for Cycle 5. This Committee will guide the planning and implementation of the next cycle of projects for our division.

Some of the Board discussions included:

The many years of service from our retired staff were celebrated. Retirees were recognized and thanked for their service to Peace Wapiti and their dedication to our students.

- Carol Davidson, Spirit River Regional Academy
 - Cheryl Strauss, Bezanson School
 - Greg Gourlay, Beaverlodge Regional High School
 - Jim Venhola, Robert W. Zahara School
 - Julie Sawchuk, Elmworth School
 - Marian Logan, Beaverlodge Regional High School, PAVE
 - Perry Schofield, Ridgevalley School
 - Wanda Johnson, Sexsmith Secondary School
- The 2011/2014 Three Year Plan was approved by the Board. The plan highlights innovative and collaborative projects, strategies for improving areas of concern, budget information, capital and facility plans and projects, and information about our 3 goals:
 1. Success for Every Student
 2. Transformed Education through Collaboration
 3. Success for First Nations, Metis and Inuit StudentsSee the [PWSD Web Page](#) for more information.
 - The Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2011 were approved by the board.
 - Policies on Transportation for Students with Special Needs (EEA) and on School Bus Routes (EEAB) were rescinded after incorporating their information into the newly revised policy on Student Transportation Services (EEA)

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Press Release

Peace Wapiti Public School Division's Fall Budget Update

November 17, 2011

At their Board Meeting on November 17, the Peace Wapiti Public School Board approved a revised deficit budget of \$123,000.

As a result of the reinstatement of grant funding previously reduced by Alberta Education, increased projections of CEU (Credit Enrolment Units) revenue and the provision of the fuel subsidy grant, the School Division is receiving approximately 1.6 million dollars of one time funding more than budgeted in the spring. The School Division is very thankful to the Government of Alberta for reinstating the spring funding grant cuts and providing a fuel subsidy.

Using the reinstated funds that had been cut in the spring, PWSD has improved services offered to students by:

- Approximately 4 FTE (full time equivalent) of teaching staff have been added to classrooms.
- Educational Assistant hours have been increased by approximately 200 hours per week or 8 FTE.
- Approximately \$245,000 has been refunded to school site budgets to support teacher staffing.
- An additional \$226,000 has been added to AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) projects.
- The Instructional Technology budget has also partially been reinstated after being substantially reduced in the spring budget.
- The School Division will also undertake a "High School Completion Project" to identify strategies to further improve student results in this area.

Despite the increased grant revenue, PWSD will still post a deficit of \$123,000. This entire deficit comes from Transportation. While the return of the Fuel Price Contingency Grant has significantly reduced the \$555,000 deficit expected in our spring budget submission, it is insufficient to meet our ongoing costs in transportation. PWSD does not receive sufficient funding to provide acceptable transportation services and ride times to students. This budgeted deficit will be funded from monies that have been set aside for future bus replacement.