



BOARD NEWS

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

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

Upcoming Events

Kindergarten registration is ongoing – Register online at www.pwpsd.ca/registration

Administrators' meetings
April 30 and May 28, Central Office.

Hats on! for Mental Health Day,
Wednesday, May 1

Rycroft School 100th Anniversary Celebration, Friday, May 10

Barbecue lunch at 12:30 p.m.
Official cake cutting at 1:30 p.m.
View Learning Fair student projects and memorabilia on loan from community members, and tour the school.

Register by May 16:
PSBAA Spring General Assembly
May 31 - June 2

AB Student Voice: May 31 - June 1
Cambridge Red Deer Hotel & Conference Centre (formerly the Sheraton Red Deer)
www.public-schools.ab.ca

Victoria Day, Mon., May 20
No classes. Offices/shops closed.

Annual Dave Bleile Track Meet
Tuesday, May 21, Legion Field

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, May 30, 2019
10:30 a.m., Central Office.

Provincial Youth Mental Health Summit – Open to Grades 9-11
June 3-4, 2019, Cambridge Red Deer Hotel & Conference Centre (formerly the Sheraton Red Deer). The ASBA has partnered with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) to bring HEADSTRONG, a two-day leadership program, open to students in Alberta. www.asba.ab.ca/about/leadership-academies/provincial-youth-mental-health-summit.



PSBAA First Vice President Gerry Steinke chats with PWPSD school council members and parents about the Together for Students campaign.

Together for Students focus of PWPSD School Councils' General Meeting

More than 60 school council members, parents and PWPSD staff and trustees came together for PWPSD's annual Spring General School Councils' Meeting at Sexsmith Secondary School on April 2.

Board Chair Dana McIntosh opened the meeting with PWPSD trustee and staff introductions, followed by an update from the division highlighting new developments, reports and student achievements. Read the PWPSD Division Update online at <https://issuu.com/pwpsd76/docs/pwpsd-division-update-april-2019>.

Pat Cochrane, Campaign Chair; Gerry Steinke,

Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) First Vice President; and PSBAA President Cathy Hogg presented *Together for Students*, the campaign for a single inclusive education system in Alberta.

The presenters outlined the need for a public dialogue about the escalating costs – financial, social and educational – resulting from Alberta's current multiple education systems, and led small group discussions to gather feedback. PWPSD trustees have voiced their support of the campaign. To learn more about the initiative, visit www.togetherforstudents.ca.

School Liaison Team and First Nation, Métis, Inuit (FNMI) Annual Report

Since starting their new roles in September 2018, Supervising Assistant Superintendent Kevin Elias said he and Brigitte Benning, Indigenous Educator, have focused their efforts on four main areas.

Building Relationships – The pair met with all PWPSD principals and FNMI Liaison Workers and established communication for the school year. They continue to develop local, provincial and national relationships with Indigenous committees, school districts and service providers.

Professional Development – Ongoing sourcing of Indigenous education for administrators, teachers, staff and parent councils to address current needs, including presentations by Ms. Benning, as requested.

Education for Students – The PWPSD Indigenous Speaker Series provides opportunities for students to engage with local and national Indigenous role models. Ms. Benning presents to Grades 1-12 students, as requested, and works with educators and the Liaison Team to host local presenters.

Vision for the Future – Continue to establish multi-level relationships to assess PWPSD's program strengths, challenges and areas requiring growth, including learning from other districts. The new PWPSD Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, comprised of Benning, Elias and four principals, along with plans for an Indigenous Student Council, will provide valuable insights. Ms. Benning is also working with PWPSD trustees to develop a Land Acknowledgement Policy and Resource.



Anastasia Potratz nominated for 2019 ASBA Edwin Parr Teacher Award

Savanna School teacher Anastasia Potratz is PWPSD's candidate for the 2019 Edwin Parr Teacher Award, presented annually by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) to outstanding first-year teachers in each of the six ASBA Zones.



Nominations are due by April 30, with each board submitting only one nominee. The overall winner for the region will be announced at the ASBA Zone 1 Fall General Meeting in Peace River on September 11. Read the full story at <http://bit.ly/PWPSD-EdwinParr-2019>.

Collaborative Response Model Annual Report

In his annual report to the Board, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Elias said the goal is to continue to support the ongoing development of an embedded Collaborative Response Model (CRM) at all PWPSD schools.

"Having staff come together to discuss and support students is fundamental to our purpose as educators."

The CRM Steering Committee will support schools' continued refinement of the CRM to reflect individual school and student needs.

Specific goals set for the committee include ongoing software implementation support; integration and use of the PWPSD Student First Framework for Learning meeting tool; refining the focus of Collaborative Team meetings; linking CRM needs to professional development; and continuing school support visits to promote ongoing refinement.

Policy Review Committee Report

One policy was reviewed and four received updates during the Policy Review Committee meeting on March 18. The Committee reviewed coding systems for policy handbooks and continues to work on drafting the land acknowledgement policy.

- **Copyright – EGAA:** Regular review. No changes.
- **PWPSD Buses & School Operation During Inclement Weather – EAAF:** Updated to include wind chill; weather station data source changed to the Weather Network; separated the Sexsmith Secondary and Peace Wapiti Academy attendance areas into two zones; added a bus breakdown procedure; and updated wording.
- **Student Attendance – IE:** Updated Guideline and Procedure #4 a) to align with the *School Act*.
- **Student Suspension/Expulsion – IGD:** Updated wording.
- **Division School Year Calendar – HC:** Updated Guideline and Procedure #2 b); added reference info to the exhibit.

Annual Inclusive Education and Learning Coaches Report

Assistant Superintendent Heather Putio led the annual Inclusive Education report to the Board.

Community School Liaison Counsellors (CSLCs) Emily Kostiuik and Shayna Gorber shared CSLC team goals and provided a snapshot of statistics that contribute to local mental health needs. PWPSD's six-member CSLC team and contracted service providers offer social-emotional interventions to children and youth at PWPSD schools. Feedback from teachers, parents and students is overwhelmingly positive. The CSLC program is supported by the NDP-initiated Classroom Improvement Fund, in addition to funding from Birch Hills County, Saddle Hills County, the M.D. of Greenview and the County of Grande Prairie FCSS.

The Learning Coach report, delivered by District Principal Karen Chrenek and Coaches Kathy Mykyte and Mandy Funk, covered supports ranging from speech language assistance, literacy and math interventions, to programming for mild/moderate delays, positive behaviour, trauma intervention and life skills.

Project Independence, a pilot program at Harry Balfour School that will eventually be implemented at other schools, offers instructional strategies that build student independence. Other Inclusive Education-supported programs include Transitioning Beyond School, an evening session for parents and youth needing supports beyond junior and senior high; the Think Equal program and The Social Express to foster social-emotional development; Augmentative Alternative Communication apps; Early Years Evaluations; Horse Lake Family Fair and other First Nations initiatives; AHS Day Treatment Program; Family Oriented Planning Sessions; and staff professional development.

The Inclusive Education team received the 2018-19 Carmella Amelio McCaw Special Education Award.

"You are the only adult in my life that cares about me."

– Student comment

PWPSD to establish new colony school

With the establishment of the new Bay Tree Hutterite Colony by the Hutterian Church, the PWPSD Board approved a new colony-based school. The Board will apply to Alberta Education for a school number for the Bay Tree Colony School.

PWPSD 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

Trustee Knull reported on the Transportation Committee meeting held on February 21 and the PSBC meeting held on April 11-13.

Trustee Clarke reported on the Policy Review Committee meeting held on March 18.

Trustee Anderson reported on the Communications Committee meeting held on April 2.

Trustee McIntosh reported on School Councils Meeting held on April 2.

Trustee Grant reported on the Health and Safety Committee meeting held on April 11.

Trustees received approval to attend the School Sites and Planning in the City and County of Grande Prairie meeting on May 17 at St. John Paul II Catholic School.

For more good news, see the News & Announcements section at www.pwpsd.ca.

REGISTER ONLINE FOR KINDERGARTEN

Visit www.pwpsd.ca/registration or click the registration tab on your school website to register for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

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