



Peace Wapiti Public School Division

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

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

Pink Shirt Day – Be Kind
Wednesday, February 27
www.pinkshirtday.ca

Nomination deadline: 2019 ASCA Awards of Recognition
Thursday, February 28
www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/school-councils/awards-of-recognition

Professional Learning Day
Friday, March 1: No school.

Alberta Rural Ed Symposium
March 3-5, Edmonton
www.albertaruraleducation.ca

Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention
Thursday - Friday, March 7-8
No school.

20th Annual Spirit Seekers Youth Conference
Friday - Saturday, March 15-16
<https://spiritseekersyouth.wordpress.com>

Edwin Parr Teacher Award
Nominate a first year teacher online by March 15:
www.asba.ab.ca/edwin-parr-nomination-forms-now-available

Kindergarten online registration opens
Tuesday, March 19
www.pwpsd.ca/registration

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, March 21
10:30 a.m., Central Office

Spring Break
Monday - Friday, March 25-29
Classes resume Monday, April 1.



The 2017-2018 Academic Awards of Excellence recipients. Front, left-right: Beaverlodge Regional High School graduates Payton Lappenbush, Ranen Calvert, Charlotte Schmidt, Josie Steyer (Top in the Division) and Sky Vetsch. Back, left-right: Sophia Balderston, Sexsmith Secondary School and Tate Russell, Peace Wapiti Academy. Missing from photo: Haley Friesen, Hannah Thon, Kade Lyons, Keyana Anderson, Caelen Mitchell, Lawrence Espela and Wyatt Andersen.

PWPSD honours top academic students of past school year

PWPSD Trustees honoured fifteen former students at a ceremony and luncheon during the Board meeting on February 21, recognizing outstanding Grade 12 academic achievement during the 2017-2018 school year. Many who attended were on study break from various post-secondary institutions.

Beaverlodge Regional High School (BRHS) graduate Josie Steyer, pictured right with Ward 4 Trustee Kim Moodie, was named **Top Student in the Division** for the past school year and received a \$300 award for her achievement.



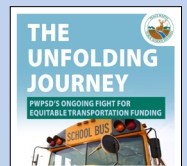
Awards of Excellence in the amount of \$100 were presented to those who graduated with averages above 90 per cent. Noted for this achievement were BRHS graduates Payton Lappenbush, Ranen Calvert, Charlotte Schmidt and Sky Vetsch; Peace Wapiti Academy graduates Haley Friesen, Hannah Thon, Tate Russell and Kade Lyons; and Sexsmith Secondary School graduates Sophia Balderston and Keyana Anderson.

Top in School Awards in the amount of \$100 went to graduates Caelen Mitchell of Eaglesham School, Sven Dietsche (posthumous) of Savanna School, Lawrence Espela of Spirit River Regional Academy, and Wyatt Andersen of Ridgevalley School for achieving the highest average at their schools.

Board reaches out to Premier, Minister of Education, upcoming election candidates

The Board has sent letters to Premier Notley, Education Minister David Eggen and local election candidates, conveying PWPSD's 14-year transportation funding deficit that totals five million dollars.

Trustees included [The Unfolding Journey](#) brochure that shares personal stories from students as young as six who endure 10-hour days due to lengthy bus rides. The Board is encouraging families to share their stories with their MLA and upcoming election candidates.



Board votes to support PSBAA's *Together for Students* campaign

The Board voted unanimously to support the PSBAA *Together for Students* campaign that advocates for a province-wide conversation on what one inclusive education system could look like in the future – one that reflects modern-day Alberta. “The campaign doesn’t seek to undermine religious and language rights protected by constitutions,” says Board Chair Dana McIntosh. “The conversation needs to be about doing what is best for students, not systems.”

Facilities and IMR Annual Report

In the summer and fall of 2018, the PWPSD Facilities Department oversaw general maintenance and repairs at all schools, including screening and varnishing gym floors; summer cleaning and carpet steaming; fire alarm testing and verification; fire extinguisher inspection and maintenance; emergency and exit lighting testing; and verification, servicing and cleaning of Change Air units, air conditioning units, shop dust collectors, and boiler systems. Scheduled inspections of roofing, playground equipment and stair/chair lifts were conducted. HVAC filters due for quarterly replacement were completed. Additional work was completed, as needed.

Conversion of Beaverlodge Elementary’s computer lab to a fine arts wing is complete. Beaverlodge Regional High received a new handicap main door operator, while the office and hallway saw new flooring.

Bezanson, Bonanza, Eaglesham and Clairmont Schools received interior paint. Eaglesham’s home economics class and school office saw new flooring.

Two of three modular classrooms from Harry Balfour School (HBS) were transferred to Peace Wapiti Academy; one went to Bezanson School, requiring a newly built link. Two HBS portables went to Helen E. Taylor.

Cabinets were added to Wembley Elementary’s reception and librarian workstations. Day care floors were refinished, and testing was conducted on exit and emergency lights and fire alarms and extinguishers.

The library renovation at Ridgevalley is ongoing. LaGlance School’s library renovation is complete, while classroom millwork replacement is ongoing.

The Savanna teacherage saw minor maintenance. Savanna and Woking Schools received new urinals. Talks are underway with Saddle Hills County regarding takeover of the Savanna School lagoon.

Sexsmith Secondary shops were painted and washroom updates are ongoing. The BMS was upgraded in Teepee Creek’s modular classrooms. The new Peace Wapiti Enterprise Centre received offices, a storage room, interior paint, and upgraded electrical and flooring.

Penson, Rycroft and Woking received water bottle filling stations. LED lighting was installed at Bonanza, Eaglesham, Penson, Ridgevalley and Rycroft Schools. Beaverlodge Regional, Eaglesham, Harry Balfour, Helen E. Taylor and Ridgevalley Schools saw sectional reroofing.

In addition to regular maintenance and inspections at Central Office, lower level AHS offices saw repairs due to water damage from a failed hydrant.

PWPSD Instructional Coaches, Coordinators inspire deliberate, explicit and confident teaching

Assistant Superintendent Kevin Elias, who presented the annual Instructional Coaches and Coordinators Report, said teacher feedback on the value of coaching continues to be overwhelmingly positive.

PWPSD employs two Instructional Coaches who provide literacy and numeracy teaching strategies during monthly visits to schools, in addition to email and telephone support. The team is building quality K-3 numeracy assessments and resources, and is implementing a common Phonetics program and resources for all K-1 teachers. New teachers can access two days of literacy and numeracy support, while tenured teachers have up to 25 additional days. School sites may provide additional support to meet individual requests for professional development (PD).

Two Educational Technology Coaches manage a resource website and provide teachers with personalized, group and in-class PD on implementing and integrating technology into curriculum.

Four Junior/Senior Instructional Coordinators support and connect teachers through collaborative participatory PD sessions in the areas of science, social studies, math and English language arts.



Draft 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

The draft 2020-2021 school year calendar was prepared in consultation with stakeholders, as per [Policy HC – Division School Year Calendar](#). View it online at www.pwpsd.ca/Resources/ParentResources/calendars.

AHS awards mental health funding

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has identified PWPSD as a successful applicant for Mental Health Capacity Building (MHCB) Enhancement Funding. The Board is awaiting further direction from AHS.

PWPSD BOARD NEWS

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

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Horse Lake Representative Report

Rep. Joachim reported on the Horse Lake Family Fair taking place on March 12 at 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Horse Lake Recreation Centre.

One Act Play Festival says thanks

Organizers of the Northwest Zone One Act Play Festival expressed appreciation for the Board’s ongoing annual support. Winning plays will represent Zone 1 in May at the Provincial High School One Act Play Festival in Red Deer.

Approval granted for professional improvement leave

As outlined in the Collective Agreement, the deadline to submit requests for sabbatical leaves is February 15. The Board approved one request for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

Committee and meeting reports

Trustee Grant reported on the Health and Safety Committee meeting held on Jan. 22.

Trustee Knull reported on the PSBC meeting held in Edmonton on Feb. 7-8.

On Feb. 11, the Negotiations Committee completed a review of [Policy GGG – Personnel Policy Non-Teaching Staff](#).

Trustees reviewed upcoming Indigenous Education conferences.

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