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Peace Wapiti Public School Division

BOARD NEWS

Central Office, 8611A - 108 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 4C5 | WWW.PWPSD.CA

JANUARY 16, 2020

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

Annual Inclusive Education Report

Assistant Superintendent Heather Putio led the Annual Inclusive Education Report to the Board with a note that services for students with severe and mild/moderate disabilities overlap with classroom practices, making them beneficial to all PWPSD students.

Inclusive Education staff work with community partners and contracted service providers to offer individualized academic, social-emotional and physical interventions to children and youth at PWPSD schools. PWPSD's Student First Framework for Learning guides the process; ensuring students do not slip through the cracks.

PWPSD's Collaborative Response Model (CRM) has improved the effectiveness of the Inclusive Education team, enhancing the family voice to promote shared problem-solving in schools, and uses data to put the best services in place for each student.

"The feedback we receive from our partners is that the PWPSD collaborative process is unique," says Ms. Putio. "Our staff also report greater job satisfaction as a result of the CRM, knowing that students are being appropriately served."

Back in 2012, approximately 115 PWPSD students met the criteria for severe disabilities, compared with 150 students this year. However, staff are now challenged to provide the same level of service without an increase in resources, and the resulting shortfall means searching for greater efficiencies in programming and specialized services.

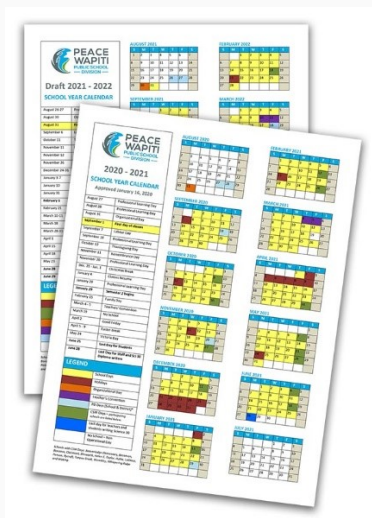
"Our goal is to program for student independence and successful transition into the community beyond high school," adds Ms. Putio.

District Principal Karen Chrenek highlighted Inclusive Education supports currently in place to support PWPSD's preschool children, along with the highly specialized programming for students requiring coordinated wraparound services from the Peace Collaborative Services team of specialists.

Project Independence, launched in the past school year, provides instructional strategies to build capacity in Educational Assistants (EAs), resulting in positive outcomes for students. This year, the project extended to include eight days of specialized training for EAs and staff members who work with students with more complex needs.

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 and Social Express programs that foster social-emotional development; Augmentative Alternative Communication apps; Early Years Evaluations; Functional Life Skills; Family Oriented Planning Sessions; sensory rooms; and staff professional development, including sessions this school year with Dr. Jody Carrington. A PWPSD Wellness Coach provides unique service to four high schools through the division's Mental Health Capacity Building Project.

2020-2021 School Year Calendar approved



The Board approved the upcoming 2020-2021 School Year Calendar and provided approval in principle for the Draft 2021-2022 School Year Calendar, as presented. [Access printable PDFs online.](#)

Upcoming PWPSD school year calendars are prepared in collaboration with the two neighbouring school divisions.



PARENTS:

Please complete the Accountability Pillar Survey online or return your completed survey in the enclosed, pre-paid envelope by **FEBRUARY 28, 2020.**

Locally developed course approved

The Board approved Social Literacy 25-3 and 35-3 for offering at all PWPSD high schools during January 31, 2020 - August 31, 2020, as presented by Assistant Superintendent Kevin Elias.

Policy Review Committee Report

The Policy Review Committee meets regularly to review and update policies. All policies are available online at www.pwpsd.ca/Resources/policies. Trustee McIntosh provided the Policy Review Committee Report from the meeting held on December 9, 2019, in which committee members identified *Policy FL – Closure of a School or Division Within a School* and the corresponding Exhibit 1 as requiring extensive review to comply with the new *Education Act*.

Continued support for NW AB Skills Canada Competition

The Board will continue its annual \$2,000 contribution to the North West Regional Skills Canada Competition, as outlined in *PWPSD Administrative Procedure JOBA-APM – Annual Contributions*.



Committee & Meeting Reports

- Trustee Clarke provided the **Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 1** report.
 - Trustee Knull shared the agenda for the upcoming **Public School Boards' Council (PSBC)** meeting on February 6-7.
 - The Board will attend the **annual joint meeting with the County of Grande Prairie** on March 12.
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School boards work with, and are the voice of, parents and public community members, ensuring the best education possible for all children everywhere in Alberta. They care about the needs of children today and for the future. School boards provide important insight into the public education system, ensuring parents' voices, students' needs and school community thinking, remain at the forefront of our education system.

[See the choice that currently exists in the public education system.](#)

[Next, share your thoughts. Complete the Choice in Education Survey.](#)

Upcoming Events

- **January Diploma Exams:** Monday, January 13 - Thursday, January 30. [View the online schedule.](#)
- **ASCA School Councils Conference & AGM registration opens:** Thursday, January 23. [Register online.](#)
- **Upcoming Free 'On Your Mark' Diploma Exam Tutorials:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Free food. No need to register. Students should simply show up ready to review and ask questions.
 - **Biology 30:** Saturday, January 25, Peace Wapiti Academy.
 - **Chemistry 30:** Saturday, January 25, Peace Wapiti Academy.
 - **Science 30:** Wednesday, January 29, Peace Wapiti Academy, Room 116.
- **Deadline to register for the February PSBC Meeting and Governance Seminar:** Monday, January 27. [Register online.](#)
- **Family Literacy Day:** Monday, January 27.

- **Semester 2 begins:** Friday, January 31.
- **Bell Let's Talk Day:** Friday, January 31.
- **Nomination deadline for the Honouring Spirit – Indigenous Student Awards:** Due 4:30 p.m. on February 1. [See nomination form and more info on the ASBA website.](#)
- **February PSBC Meeting and Governance Seminar:** Thursday - Friday, February 6-7, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel West Edmonton, 16615-109 Avenue NW.
- **Administrator's Meeting:** Tuesday, February 11, PWPSD Central Office.
- **Tour of the Trades:** Thursday, February 13.
- **2020 Passionate Heart Awards Luncheon:** Friday, February 14, 11:30 a.m., Revolution Place. Deadline to purchase \$20 tickets is February 5 by emailing csd@cityofgp.com or by calling (780) 538-0380.
- **National Flag Day:** Saturday, February 15.
- **Family Day:** Monday, February 17. No school. PWPSD offices and shops closed.
- **Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, February 20, 10:30 a.m., Central Office, Grande Prairie
- **Pink Shirt Day:** Wednesday, February 26. [Visit the Pink Shirt Day website.](#)
- **Parents:** [Accountability Pillar Survey due](#) on Friday, February 28.
- **ASCA 2020 Awards of Recognition nomination deadline:** Friday, February 28. Nominations are open for the School Council Award of Merit, School Council Parent of Distinction, Excellence in Learning Partnerships, and Division School Council Engagement. [More information and the nomination form.](#)
- **Alberta Rural Education Symposium:** March 1-3, Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton. [Registration, event program and hotel information.](#)

Media: Request an interview



PWPSD BOARD NEWS

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

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