



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

Canada Day Holiday
Monday, July 1
PWPSD offices and shops closed.

Savanna School Graduation
Saturday, July 6,
Dinner at 4:30 p.m.
Cap and Gown at 6:00 p.m.
Bonanza Hall

Deadline to apply for the Minister's Youth Council
Wednesday, July 31
Open to students between the ages of 14 and 19 (as of Sept. 1, 2019) who are able to commit three weekends during the school year for meetings in Edmonton. Apply: www.alberta.ca/student-engagement.aspx

Civic Holiday
Monday, August 5
PWPSD offices and shops closed.

Start-up meetings:
Bus Drivers: Thurs., Aug. 22
New Administrators: Thurs., Aug. 22
Administrators: Fri., Aug. 23
Admin. Assts: Mon., Aug. 26
Details will be posted on the PWPSD website and all school websites.

New Teacher Orientation
Day 1: Mon., Aug. 26, PWA
Day 2: Tues., Aug 27, Central Office

Professional Learning Days
Thursday-Friday, Aug. 28 - 29

Organizational Day
Friday, August 30
At PWPSD schools

Labour Day
Monday, September 2
PWPSD offices and shops closed.

First day of school
Monday, September 3
Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year.

First Board Meeting of the 2019-2020 School Year
Thursday, September 5
Organizational Meeting: 10:30 a.m.
Regular Board Meeting: 11:00 a.m.
PWPSD Central Office



The \$372,730 deficit in the PWPSD 2019-2020 budget stems from the Board's decision to maintain existing services provided to students.

Board approves 2019-2020 deficit budget

The Board is required to approve the spring budget for submission to Alberta Education. This year's submission deadline is June 30, 2019.

The Board voted to approve the 2019-2020 deficit budget with operating revenues of \$84,013,882 and operating expenditures of \$84,386,612, and to request Ministerial approval to fund the 2019-2020 budgeted transportation deficit of \$780,281 from Capital Reserves.

Despite the budget's shortcomings, the PWPSD Board has committed to maintaining existing instructional programming and services for students, even with the discontinuation of the Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF).

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Transportation continues to be an area of concern for PWPSD. The growing deficit in this area is a direct result of inequities in the province's Rural Transportation Funding Grid that fails to reflect the unique realities of minority rural districts.

Student enrolment is projected to decrease by 1.1 per cent at PWPSD schools in the upcoming year.

The budget was prepared with the assumption that there will be no significant increases to salaries and no significant changes to provincial grant rates, based on the proximity of the April election to the end of

the school year. Under normal circumstances, school boards would be made aware of any major changes to grants before April.

Board seeks AB Ed confirmation that requirements for school site approval have been met

PWPSD Administration has written to Dr. Curtis Clarke, Deputy Minister of Education, seeking confirmation that the recent letter of support from the County of Grande Prairie regarding land at Five Mile Hall is sufficient proof that a site for a new PWPSD school has been secured.

In the past, Alberta Education has required school boards to first show proof of a serviced building lot in order to be considered as a candidate for a possible new school project.

The letter of support from the County states, within 12 months of a new school announcement, and barring any unpredictable circumstances, they will provide PWPSD with legal title of the land at the Five Mile Hall, complete all required zoning, bring services to the property line, and provide adequate road access for construction to begin.

PWPSD expands Leadership Development Program

"We regularly experience turnover in our leadership," said Deputy Superintendent Darren Young in his presentation to the Board. "By providing intentional and structured leadership development, we are proactively preparing future leaders in accordance with our mission, *Educating today for success tomorrow*. Effective leadership is an essential element of student, school and system improvement as we continue to learn and grow together."

The new Leadership Explorations Program, an addition to PWPSD's existing comprehensive Leadership Development Program, is intended for teachers not currently in a leadership position, with an interest in exploring educational leadership.

Candidates will complete an application starting in late August. Successful applicants will complete pre- and post-reading assignments, participate in related online discussions, attend five in-person Saturday learning sessions, and possibly job shadow a role of interest.

PWPSD provides comprehensive leadership development for current leaders through supports such as formal mentoring, targeted professional development and District Office support, in addition to existing opportunities offered by the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) which are integrated into PWPSD's leadership development model.



Local fire departments nominated for PWPSD Friends of Education Award

Local volunteer and municipal fire departments have been nominated by PWPSD for a 2019 Alberta School Boards’ Association (ASBA) Zone 1 Friends of Education Award. The annual award, presented to one organization from each Zone 1 school division, recognizes special contributions to education. This year’s award will be presented at the Zone 1 fall meeting in Peace River on September 11.

The recipients were selected for the support they provide to PWPSD schools through fire protection, education and response services: Birch Hills County Fire Departments, Central Peace Fire and Rescue Commission, City of Grande Prairie Fire Department, County of Grande Prairie Regional Fire Service, M.D. of Greenview Protective Services Department, and Saddle Hills County Regional Fire/Disaster Services.

Education Act: What is changing?

The Board reviewed an email from the Minister of Education announcing that *Bill 8: The Education Amendment Act, 2019* was introduced in the Legislature on June 5, 2019, and an accompanying chart outlining what is changing from the current *School Act* to the *Education Act* with the proposed amendments from Bill 8.

Government initially gave the *Education Act* royal assent in 2012 but did not proclaim it due to incomplete accompanying regulations.

Alberta Education has set the Bill 8 implementation date as September 1, 2019. PWPSD forms, administrative procedures and policies will be updated over the summer to reflect the coming changes in legislation.

New policy approved – Recognition of Indigenous Lands and Peoples

In September, the Policy Review Committee was tasked with drafting a land acknowledgement policy to provide resources to assist in respectfully recognizing and acknowledging Indigenous Lands and Peoples at special events.

The committee consulted with Brigitte Benning, PWPSD’s Indigenous Educator, and Joy Joachim, Horse Lake Representative, as well as the broader community, to draft the policy and related exhibit. The exhibit also included feedback from within PWPSD and the broader community.

The Board voted to approve [Policy AJ – Recognition of Indigenous Lands and People](#) and [Exhibit 1 – Opportunities for Recognition](#) as presented.

Locally developed courses approved

The Board approved a number of Alberta Education-approved locally developed courses for offering at all PWPSD high schools.

Courses offered during September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2023:

- Advanced Acting/Touring Theatre 15, 25, 35
- Applied Graphic Arts 15, 25, 35
- Audio 15, 25, 35
- Creative Writing & Publishing 15, 25, 35
- Journalism 15, 25, 35
- Myth-Busting Science 25
- Painting (Advanced Techniques) 15, 25, 35
- Performing Arts 15, 25, 35
- Theatre Appreciation 15, 25, 35
- Yoga 15, 25, 35

Courses offered during September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2022:

- American Sign Language (LA) 35-5
- Technical Theatre 15, 25, 35

Courses offered during September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020:

- Film Appreciation 15, 25
- History Through Film: Fact and Fiction 25
- Popular Culture 25, 35
- Professional Studio Arts 15, 25, 35
- Study of Film 35

Young students benefit from targeted speech, literacy interventions

In her presentation to the Board, Rowena Stewart, Literacy Coach and Reading Intervention Coordinator said, “We have been very fortunate to offer great literacy supports for our students. We’re getting better at providing services that target specific needs.”

Speech and literacy interventions are led by Carolyn Hovey-Johnson and Ms. Stewart, respectively. The team, which also includes April Brown and Rhonda Giesbrecht, developed a PD plan for Kindergarten - Grade 1 teachers for the upcoming year, along with a Facebook group to help build a supportive instructional community.

“I’m quite excited for next year’s PD,” said Assistant Superintendent Kevin Elias who oversees the team. “I think we’ll see some positive changes in our students.”

Looking at the data, Ms. Stewart said 872 students received speech therapy in 2016-17. That number has grown to 1,176 this year. “Studies show that students requiring speech interventions will likely need reading interventions – the two go hand in hand,” she noted.

With rising speech needs becoming a topic of national and international research, the team is taking a proactive approach, ensuring consistent instruction and resources are available throughout the division, while building confidence in teachers. Based on their own research, the team selected two programs – Jolly Phonics and Letters & Sounds – for delivery to all Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. April Brown laid out the instructional scope and sequence for both options.

In 2016-17, a total of 574 students received literacy interventions, compared with an increase to 667 students this year. In the coming year, the team will focus on the 40 to 50 per cent of students requiring explicit systematic synthetic phonics instruction – the correlation between letters and sounds, and how they form words – to circumvent the need for deeper interventions later on.

Trustee development opportunities

To ensure trustees receive quality PD in an equitable manner, the Board voted to administer it through a capped annual fund, as outlined in [Policy BHB – Trustee Development Opportunities](#). The policy will now be reviewed during each annual Organizational Meeting of the Board, as stated in [Policy BC – Organization of the Board](#). [Policy BHD – Trustee Compensation and Expenses](#) and the [Compensation and Expense Rate Schedule \(Exhibit 1\)](#) have been updated for clarity and consistency, and to reflect the changes to [Policy BHB](#).

PWPSD BOARD NEWS

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

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PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION
EDUCATING TODAY FOR SUCCESS TOMORROW

Horse Lake Representative Report

Horse Lake Rep. Joy Joachim reported that Horse Lake First Nation is hosting their annual student recognition night on June 28.

Feedback on Red Tape Reduction

The Board will respond to the ASBA request for feedback and suggestions by June 28, 2019, sharing their thoughts on how the new Associate Ministry for Red Tape Reduction can ease the level of bureaucracy for school boards.

Committee and meeting reports

Trustees Knull and Clarke reported on the PSBAA Spring General Assembly.

Trustee Knull reported on the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards Meeting.

Trustee Anderson reported on the ASBA Spring General Meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Paquin presented the Health and Safety Report.

The Board approved trustee attendance at the ASBA webinar, *Trust Me*, offered on June 12; the ASBA Alberta Education webinars on the *Education Act*; and a full-day workshop by Dr. Jody Carrington during PWPSD’s Professional Learning Day for teachers on November 22, 2019.

Clause added to motion

For clarity, the Board will add the clause ‘under Policy GGG – Personnel Policy: Non-Teaching Staff’ after ‘eligible staff’ as an amendment to Board Motion 201904530.1014.

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