

Peace Wapiti Public School Division

MARCH 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

Kindergarten online registration is ongoing:
www.pwpsd.ca/registration

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

PWPSD School Councils' Spring General Meeting
Tues., Apr. 2, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.,
Sexsmith Secondary School.
Agenda: <http://bit.ly/PWPSD-School-Councils>

Register by April 3:
April PSBC Meeting and Governance Seminar
April 11-12, Edmonton
www.public-schools.ab.ca

CASS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Gathering
April 10-12, Edmonton
<https://cassalberta.ca/conferences-workshops>

Good Friday and Easter Monday
April 19 & 22: No school,
PWPSD offices/shops closed.

Next Board Meeting
Thursday, April 25,
10:30 a.m., Central Office

3-D Charity Tournaments
Hockey: April 25-27,
Coca Cola Centre
Soccer: April 26-27,
Eastlink Centre
<http://3dcharityhockey.com>

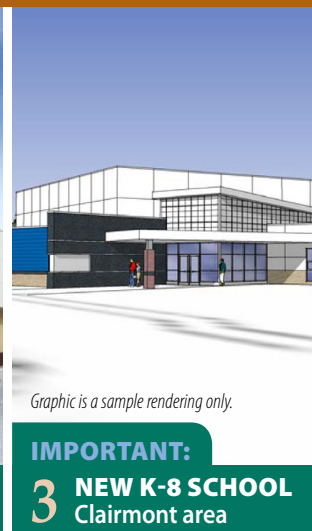
Alberta School Councils Conference and AGM
April 26-28,
Delta Edmonton South
www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca



URGENT:
1 REPLACEMENT
Harry Balfour School



URGENT:
2 REPLACEMENT
Peace Wapiti Academy



IMPORTANT:
3 NEW K-8 SCHOOL
Clairmont area



IMPORTANT:
4 MODERNIZATION
Bonanza School

The PWPSD Board is requesting two replacement schools, a new K-8 school, and one modernization project in its 2020-2023 Capital Plan.

2020-2023 Capital Plan approved for submission to Alberta Education – Board requesting three new schools, one modernization project

The Board has identified the need for three new schools and a modernization project in PWPSD's 2020-2023 Capital Plan, as presented by Superintendent Bob Stewart, for submission to Alberta Education by April 1, 2019.

On the list of urgent priorities is a replacement K-8 Harry Balfour School to address the school's continuing upward trend in enrolment. The Board will also seek approval from Alberta Education for available land near Five Mile Hall.

A second urgent priority is a new high school located north of Grande Prairie to replace Peace Wapiti Academy (PWA) and to address rapid student population growth in a large attendance area that encompasses five feeder schools – Bezanson, Penson, Clairmont Community, Whispering Ridge Community, and Harry Balfour.

Addressing excessive ride times for rural students is also a priority issue for PWPSD. By relocating HBS and PWA to the County of Grande Prairie, the Board will achieve another important goal – reducing early morning pick-ups and late drop-off times for rural students who are currently bused through the busy central core of Grande Prairie.

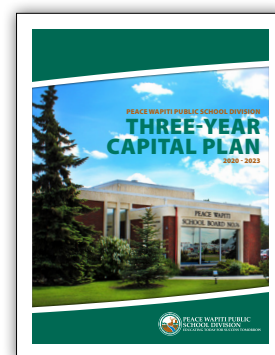
To achieve the Capital Plan goals, PWPSD is interested in pursuing partnerships with neighbouring school districts for schools with similar grade configurations.

Two other projects are listed as important priorities.

A K-8 school, located in the Clairmont area will relieve enrolment pressure at Clairmont Community School and Robert W. Zahara Public School in Sexsmith, and respond to the current and planned residential developments in the area that will significantly add to the student population.

Modernization of the aging Bonanza School will see the facility continue to support the consistent enrolment experienced in past years.

To view a PDF of PWPSD's 2020-2023 Capital Plan, visit <http://bit.ly/pwpsd-districtreports>.



New school sites, continued partnerships top PWPSD, County of Grande Prairie meeting agenda

Attendees reported on the meeting with the County of Grande Prairie, held on March 13. Topics on the agenda included land allotment for new school sites and continued partnerships.

The PWPSD Board continues to lobby Alberta Education and MLAs to accept the County's promise to provide services at the Five Mile Hall site once a replacement Harry Balfour School is announced by the Government of Alberta.

"We also discussed playschools, and clarified that they are supplemental to PWPSD's Junior Kindergarten programming, and not creating duplication," said Board Chair Dana McIntosh. "We hope we provided clarity on how beneficial the County's playschool partnerships are to our students."

PWPSD currently partners with FCSS for playschool programming at Bezanson School, Clairmont Community School, Elmworth School, LaGlance School, and Whispering Ridge Community School.

Board reviews correspondence

Minister provides insignificant increase to PWPSD's transportation funding

Trustees received a letter from the Minister of Education in response to their ongoing request for equitable transportation funding.

In his letter, the Minister said he appreciates the challenges faced by rural boards in trying to provide efficient transportation service with reasonable ride times, despite declining student enrolment. He also noted the \$5.2 million increase to province-wide funding. Of that amount, only \$150,000 was allotted to PWPSD.

In their letter to the Minister, the Board included copies of their [Unfolding Journey brochure](#) and highlighted key impacts of chronically underfunded transportation – a 14-year deficit that has pulled a total of \$5 million from schools and classrooms, and the lengthy ride times for rural students.



PSBAA conference submissions request

In keeping with the upcoming PSBAA Spring General Assembly theme, *Diversity and Choice within Our Public Schools*, the committee is seeking presentations on programs designed to meet unique needs, such as expanded course choices and outreach programming.

Budget submission deadline extended

The Minister of Education sent a letter announcing an extension to the deadline for submission of 2019-2020 school board budgets to June 30, 2019.

Board to support motion calling for mandatory student vaccination



The PWPSD Board voted five-to-three in support of a proposed motion in favour of mandatory vaccination of students attending Alberta's publicly funded schools. Peace River's Holy Family Catholic Regional Division (HFCRD) proposed the motion to the nine Zone 1 Boards during the Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Zone 1 meeting in Grande Prairie on March 13. If the motion passes at the next Zone 1 meeting on May 8, it will be presented at the ASBA Fall General Meeting.

The motion says that students who cannot receive protective vaccines for various medical reasons, such as immunodeficiency, would naturally be exempt, noting that they are also the ones requiring the greatest level of protection from communicable diseases that could be introduced to schools by unvaccinated children.

In developing the motion, HFCRD looked at data on the declining vaccination rates in Alberta, particularly in the North Zone, where numbers have dropped below the level required for 'herd immunity', compared with the higher vaccination rates seen in Ontario and New Brunswick where vaccination is mandated for school-age children.

Board meeting schedule approved

The 2019-2020 board meeting schedule has been approved to include 10 meetings at Central Office, and one meeting at the Sub Office in Spirit River. The annual organizational meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on September 5, 2019 at Central Office, followed by a regular board meeting at 11:00 a.m. View the schedule online at www.pwpsd76.ab.ca/Board/meetingdates.

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 McIntosh reported on the joint meeting between PWPSD and the Grande Prairie Catholic School District on February 25.

Attendees reported on the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards meeting held on March 3 in conjunction with the Rural Education Symposium.

Trustee Clarke reported on the Shaping Future 2019 conference.

Trustee Clarke reported on the ASBA Zone 1 meeting held on March 13.



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