Upcoming Events

Provincial Youth Mental Health Summit June 3-4, Red Deer Sheraton
ASBA is partnering with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) to bring HEADSTRONG to students from across the province. Open to Grades 9-11 students. [https://www.asba.ab.ca/about/leadership-academies/provincial-youth-mental-health-summit/]

Upcoming High School Graduations
Alternative Education: June 5
Spirit River Reg. Academy: June 7
Savanna School: July 6

PWPSD Long Service Awards – Regional Ceremonies
Central: Thurs., June 6, WRCS
Northern: Thurs., June 6, Bonanza
Western: Thurs., June 13, Elmworth

Final Board meeting of the 2018-2019 school year
Thursday, June 20, 10:30 a.m., Central Office.

National Indigenous Peoples Day
Friday, June 21

Last day of classes for students
Thursday, June 27

Last day for staff
Friday, June 28

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

County of Grande Prairie pens letter of support for land at Five Mile Hall

Board Chair Dana McIntosh received a letter of support from the County of Grande Prairie on May 17, 2019, sharing the County’s motion to support PWPSD in the event that the Government of Alberta announces a replacement Harry Balfour School.

The letter went on to say the County will, within 12 months of any such announcement, and barring any unpredictable circumstances, provide legal title of the land currently being held at the Five Mile Hall site to PWPSD as Municipal School Reserve, an amount not less than 10 acres.

The County will also complete all required zoning to enable construction of a school; ensure municipal services such as power, water, sanitary, storm and gas are available to the property line; and provide adequate road access for construction to begin.

Board supports Action on Smoking and Health Campaign

The Board signed the Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Statement of Support to help save crucial legislation slated for repeal by the end of 2019, in an effort to protect Alberta youth from the ravages of tobacco use. The Statement of Support form, supplied by Les Hagen, Executive Director of ASH, is also available for signing online at ProtectAlbertaKids.ca.
Westlake Village busing pilot extended to 2019-20 school year

Based on recommendations coming out of the Transportation Committee meeting held on May 15, and while waiting for the new Minister of Education’s decision on the walk limit, the Board will extend last year’s pilot to provide bus services to Westlake Village students to the upcoming 2019-20 school year, based on the following:

1. Kindergarten - Grade 3 students will ride for free.
2. Grades 4-6 will be charged $320 annually.
3. Grades 7-12 will be charged $320 annually.
4. Pick-ups at approximately every 500 meters.

The fee structure and spacing of pick-up locations remain unchanged over the past school year. Access to bus service will continue to be based on seat availability, with priority given to younger students.

HSA and benefit plan premium provisions from ratified Teaching Staff Collective Agreement extended to eligible non-teaching staff

The PWPSD Board voted to extend the Health Spending Account (HSA) and benefit premium payment provisions from the recently ratified 2018-2020 Teaching Staff Collective Agreement – Central Table Settlement to benefit-eligible PWPSD staff who are included under Policy GGG – Personnel Policy: Non-Teaching Staff, effective September 1, 2019. With the change, the HSA amount will increase from the current $550 to $725. Also, the Board will continue to pay their portion of benefit plan premiums for 16 weeks of maternity leave, including HSA, and 36 weeks of parental leave, excluding HSA.

Policy Review Committee Report

Trustee Clarke reported on the Policy Review Committee meeting held on May 15. The Board accepted the report, which included the following:

Updates to:
- Policy BDDH – Public Participation at Board Meetings
- Policy GBKB – Employee Inappropriate Substance Use
- Policy GCN – Teacher Growth, Supervision & Evaluation
- Policy JC – School Council

Review of:
- Policy CB – Superintendent
- Policy CBA – Development Opportunities for the Superintendent
- Policy CBG – Evaluation of the Superintendent
- Policy IFC – Student Code of Conduct
- Policy JOBA – Contributions to Individuals, Groups or Organizations

PWPSD moving to one General School Councils Meeting per school year

Attendance statistics from past General School Councils Meetings were reviewed during the Communications Committee meeting on May 16. The data revealed that the Board motion to host one meeting as a pilot in the 2018-19 school year, instead of the usual two meetings, was a success.

The motion came from a desire to see improved attendance, and to make efficient use of parents’ time.

Going forward, PWPSD will host one meeting in the spring and will continue to cover the cost of mileage associated with one return trip per school council.

The date for the next annual General School Councils Meeting was set for Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

Trips to Japan, Spain receive approval in principle

The Board provided approval in principle for two Spring Break 2020 international school trips – Sexsmith Secondary School to Japan, and Savanna School to Spain – pending compliance with Policy HGCG – Off-Site Activities.

Committee and meeting reports

Trustee Clarke reported on the ASCA Conference and AGM held on April 26-28, and the ASBA Zone One meeting held on May 8.

Trustee Kelm reported on the Survey Committee meeting held on May 16.

Trustee Anderson reported on the Communications Committee meeting held on May 16.

Trustee McIntosh reported on the Teacher Board Liaison Committee meeting held on May 30.

Trustee Knull reported on budget information from the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards.

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