PWPSD Board takes office during organizational meeting

Trustees for the 2017-2021 term elected this year’s Board Chair and Vice-Chair, established committee membership, and reviewed policies relating to trusteeship at the annual Peace Wapiti Public School Division (PWPSD) organizational meeting of the Board on Thursday, September 6, 2018.

By acclamation, Dana McIntosh will be returning to her position as Board Chair for a fifth year. Ms. McIntosh represents Ward 9 – Clairmont and Bezanson.

Ward 1 Trustee Kari Scheers, representing Eaglesham, Woking, Rycroft, was elected Vice-Chair. Elected to the Board in 2017, this year will mark her first in the role of Vice-Chair. She replaces Ward 7 Trustee Stefanie Clarke who served in the role during the 2017-2018 school year.

To view Board meeting agendas for the 2018-2019 school year, click the “Board Agendas” button found at www.pwsd76.ab.ca.

Minister thanks PWPSD Board for collaboration on Safe and Caring Policy

The Board reviewed a letter from the Minister of Education thanking them for the school authority’s work in ensuring a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environment for students and staff, as outlined in the Act to Support Gay Straight Alliances.

Earlier this summer, Alberta Education reviewed PWPSD’s Safe and Caring Policy IHF and requested minor changes to ensure alignment with existing legislation, namely the Alberta Human Rights Act, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Since the PWPSD Board does not meeting during the summer, the revised administrative procedure was posted on the school division website as a stopgap measure.

The Board approved the recommended changes to the policy today during their first meeting of the 2018-2019 school year. Click the Policies link to view it on the PWPSD homepage, or visit www.pwsd76.ab.ca/Resources/policies/Documents/IHF.pdf.
In his presentation to the Board, Darcy Bromling, Director of Information Technology at PWPSD, outlined how the use of ‘.ab’ in domain naming is becoming obsolete. Additionally, Communications Officer Angela Sears discussed the inconsistent use of the acronyms PWSD and PWSD76 which do not accurately reflect the Board’s use of the term “Public” as a descriptor of its enrolment demographic, and the past practice of including the school division numerical identifier ‘No. 76’ in branding.

With the inevitable domain change forthcoming, and to promote branding consistency, the Board approved shortening and simplifying the division’s web and email addresses to pwpsd.ca. Social media hashtags and branding will be updated in house to reflect the change.

Minister approves transfer of funds to cover transportation deficit; School Fee Schedule

Education Minister David Eggen approved the Board’s request to transfer $613,807 from capital reserves to cover the projected 2018-2019 transportation operating deficit. Inconsistencies in the province’s Rural Transportation Funding Grid continue to create challenges for PWPSD.

The Minister also reviewed and approved implementation of PWPSD’s School Fee Schedule. School fees are available under the ‘Registration’ tab on individual school websites.

PWPSD organizational chart updated

Exhibits 3 through 8 were updated in PWPSD Policy CCA – Organization Chart to reflect the responsibilities of the Assistant Superintendents of Learning Services and Inclusive Services and the Deputy Superintendent.

PWPSD Board declines increase

The Board declined the three per cent increase to Policy BHD – Trustee Compensation and Expenses, as indicated in the Consumer Price Index. Guideline and Procedure #5 of the policy states that every September 1, “the Board per diem shall be incremented by the current Canadian Consumer Price Index as established by the Superintendent or designate”.

Travel request reviewed by Board

The Board provided approval in principle for Peace Wapiti Academy to travel to Montreal and Martinique during April 2019. Approval for all travel is pending compliance with Policy HCCG – Off-Site Activities.

Committee and meeting reports

Trustee McIntosh reported on the Canadian School Board’s Association (CSBA) Congress held on July 4-7.

Trustee Knoll reported on the Public School Board Council Meeting held on August 15-18.

Trustee Knoll also reported on the Teachers’ Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA). The Annual General Meeting and Central Table Bargaining Strategy Discussion will be held on September 20, 2018. The TEBA representative, another trustee and two members of senior administration representing all Boards have been invited to attend.

Trustees will attend the ASBA Zone 1 meeting in Peace River on September 12. The meeting will include recognition of the Friends of Education Award nominees. This year, PWPSD has nominated Pembina Pipelines for the award.

For more good news, see the News & Announcements section at www.pwsd76.ab.ca.