



STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

ANNUAL EDUCATION
RESULTS REPORT

2017
2020



PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC
SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 76
EDUCATING TODAY FOR SUCCESS TOMORROW



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Peace Wapiti Public School Division (PWSD) provides an educational environment that enables all students to achieve their potential to become productive members of a changing society.

OUR VISION

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

AT A GLANCE

- Approximately 6,000 students in 33 schools, including eight Hutterite colony schools, an outreach and online school, and educational programming at a group home facility.
- High school programs offered at eight schools.
- First Nations, Métis, Inuit (FNMI) Program administered by an FNMI Education Coordinator and school-based professional and support staff. PWSD also provides schooling to students from Horse Lake First Nation and Kelly Lake Métis settlement.
- One of the Peace Region's largest employers: the full-time equivalent (FTE) of 375 teachers and 600 staff.
- Manages 104 school bus routes.

FULL REPORT

For full versions of the 2017-2020 Three-Year Education Plan and Annual Education Results Report, and the PWSD Budget, visit <http://bit.ly/pwspd-districtreports>.

1 SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

SUCCESS FOR TOMORROW BEGINS RIGHT NOW



- **District Principal:** Manages Program Unit Funding (PUF) for preschool students with mild/moderate disabilities; coordinates PD for Kindergarten staffing and implements the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) Teacher Assessment; coordinates services for students through Family Services for Children with Disabilities (FSCD), Peace Collaborative Services (PCS) and private agencies; and develops, supervises and monitors off-site programs.
- **Junior Kindergarten:** Offered at five schools, with continued evaluation of expansion opportunities.
- **Jurisdictional Student Engagement Team (JSET):** Meets twice annually, in addition to virtual meetings, to offer student perspectives on education and promote leadership developed within the Comprehensive School Health (CSH) framework, as facilitated by PWSD, Ever Active Schools, AHS, and service partners.
- **Collaborative Response Model (CRM):** All PWSD schools are supported by the Student Framework for Learning and the Div. I-II and Div. III-IV Student Supports and Accommodations guides. Dossier software acts as a visual representation of the CRM process, encouraging collaboration through shared electronic documents, such as Individual Program Plans (IPPs), Student Action Plans (SAPs) and Early Learning Plans.
- **Attendance Accountability:** All students benefit from attending school regularly. School and Board policy are used to track attendance and communicate to parents/guardians.
- **High School Redesign:** Peace Wapiti Academy and Beaverlodge Regional High School, in cooperation with district leadership and Alberta Education, are transforming the high school experience through changes to school structure, culture, pedagogy or leadership.
- **Achieving Success:** PWSD supports strategies to increase completion rates, Rutherford Scholarships, and the number of students who write four or more Diploma Exams, while lowering drop-out rates and improving transition rates to post-secondary programming.
- **Junior/Senior High School Instructional Coordinators:** Creating school Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to support language arts, math, social studies and science instruction.
- **Success at Work:** Offering students opportunities to earn credits and/or work experience through the Alternate Education Program, Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP), Skills Canada Competition, CAREERS: The Next Generation, and the Green Certificate Program. Credit recovery programs and myBlueprint post-secondary planning software are opening doors for students.

2 REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

ELIMINATING THE FNMI ACHIEVEMENT GAP



- **Room for Growth:** PWSD's First Nation, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students surpassed provincial results in the majority of measures. The following strategies will support continued growth:
 - **Celebrating Culture:** PWSD co-hosts the annual Spirit Seekers Youth Conference with the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre. Schools host National Aboriginal Day and Orange Shirt Day special events and the FNMI guest speaker series.
 - **Attendance Accountability:** All students benefit from attending school regularly. School and Board policy are used to track attendance and communicate to parents/guardians. Monthly Horse Lake First Nation (HLFN) student attendance data is also shared with the Chief and Band Manager. Personalized supports will be provided to students with attendance problems at Hythe Regional School.
- **Parental Involvement:** Welcoming school culture encourages parents to get involved.
- **Professional Staff:** Maintained support for the FNMI Liaison Program and current budget to support FNMI learners. FNMI Liaison Workers attend annual First Nations Education Conferences in Vancouver and Edmonton. Continuation of district PD plan that provides professional development for administration, teachers and FNMI Liaison Workers. A PD collaboration with the Northwest Regional Learning Consortium (NRLC) will support FNMI Liaison Worker networking and growth of capacity to support students.
- **Enhanced Services:** A partnership with PCS will enhance professional services for FNMI students, including Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT) and Speech Language Pathology (SLP).

3 SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- **Student First Framework for Learning:** PWSD's continuum of support and services, highlighting universal practices for a Quality Learning Environment (QLE) and the supports, services and interventions to address student needs.
- **Screening:** Mandated for all Kindergarten to Grade 11 students to identify those requiring further assessment and attention in literacy and numeracy. Promotes professional dialogue about academic and social-emotional performance.
- **Reading Interventions:** Daily multi-component lessons for at-risk readers. PWSD schools receive PD and resources, providing a uniform, systematic approach to program delivery: Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI), Empower™ Reading and Toe by Toe.
- **Inclusive Education Coaches:** Collaborate with teachers, outside partners, parents and staff to ensure identification through screening, appropriate assessments, programming and interventions are in place. Coaches provide instructional leadership and support ongoing CRM development.
- **Peace Collaborative Service (PCS) Delivery:** Continued partnership with PCS in the areas of Occupational Therapy (OT), Physiotherapy (PT), Speech Language Pathology (SLP), Educational Psychologist, and emotional-behavioral support.

Contracts with AHS mental health therapists will be moved to PCS to ensure an educational delivery model is utilized.

- **Social-Emotional Supports:** The Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) supports three FTE to grow the existing model and enhance service. Continue to grow the partnership to ensure counseling services delivered by FCSS counselors and PWSD's Community School Liaison Workers (CSLWs) are equitable at all schools.

General Strategies:

- Promote differentiated instruction, high quality assessment and evidence-based interventions.
- Support safe and caring school programs.
- Implement PWSD's Safe and Caring Policy.
- Collaborate with staff on Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) and Diploma Exam results analysis.
- Continue to reinforce the QLE model.
- Provide Internet safety information and software access to parents and teachers.
- Partner with community agencies to promote the four CSH pillars: social and physical environment, teaching and learning, healthy school policy, and partnerships and services.
- Partner with Child and Family Services (CFS) in the Success in Schools Program to collaborate and provide more timely and sensitive information to schools regarding students in care.



2017-2018 STAFFING ENHANCEMENTS

- **ATA/PWSD Mentorship Partnership:** Impacting 40 teachers. Protégé and mentor teachers receive coverage to support collaboration and PD.
- **Classroom Improvement Funding (CIF):** Added 1.50 FTE certificated staff to support literacy remediation using *Empower™ Reading*; 2.77 FTE educational assistants to support literacy intervention using *Toe by Toe*; and directed 0.40 current FTE to support and coaching. Hired 3.0 FTE CSLWs to enhance current student mental health support model.
- **Jr./Sr. High Instructional Coordinators:** Allocated certificated staff to create school-based PLCs for language arts, math, social studies and science.
- **Instructional Coaches:** Key role in supporting PWSD's CRM implementation. Three coaches will support literacy and numeracy training for all teachers new to PWSD.
- **Student First Framework for Learning:** Supports ongoing attention to PWSD's QLE within the CRM to ensure appropriate accommodations and interventions for students.
- **Inclusive Education Coaches:** Dedicated 7.5 FTE for collaboration with teachers, outside partners, parents and staff to ensure identification and interventions are in place.
- **Literacy/Numeracy ECS-6:** All experienced teachers continue to access PD from Literacy and Numeracy Instructional Coaches.
- **Technology Instructional Coaches:** Two technologists provide PD to increase the use of technology in supporting instruction.

4 EXCELLENT TEACHERS AND LEADERS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ENHANCEMENTS

Contextually Relevant PD Options:

- Schools utilize district PD resources or locally-developed PD topics and structures to address professional learning needs. Site level learning needs are determined by the school community under the leadership of the site principal.

Professional Learning

- District professional learning days are structured to support the implementation and development of CSH and FNMI Education, to support the draft Teaching Quality Standard.
- Teacher involvement in the development of Alberta Education curriculum and assessment.
- School Improvement Plan (SIP) strategies will be aligned to PAT and Diploma Exam results through local PD and communities of practice.
- Administrator committees will be established for administration PD, district PD, technology and pedagogy, communications, CRM steering committee, and assessment.
- Education Officers liaise with school administrators to provide support, direction and supervision to school instructional leaders.

- Continuation of training for new online programs that align with PWSD's QLE and promote the CRM, including Star Reading, MIPI Assessment, and CRM software linked to Dossier and PowerSchool.
- School-based administrator PD is aligned with ongoing PWSD initiatives embedded in district administrator meetings.

General Strategies

- Support English as a Second Language (ESL) programming, where applicable.
- Financial support for teachers studying Masters level course work.
- Opportunities for students to access alternate course delivery through the Flexibility Funding Project.
- Partner with Grande Prairie CAREERS: The Next Generation to offer Field Production Operator and Water Treatment career pathways to students.
- Continuation of One Credit Wonder programming.
- Partnerships to provide Driver Education.

WELL-GOVERNED AND MANAGED

PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION



STAYING CONNECTED

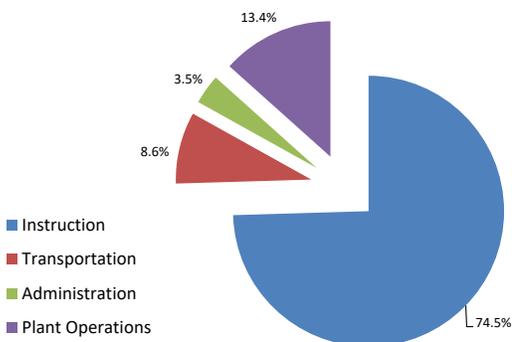
- The Annual Education Report and Three-Year Plan is provided to stakeholders via PWSD's website, Board meetings, annual General School Councils' meetings, and regular school council meetings.
- Schools are expected to involve councils in SIP preparation.
- 2017-2018 Budget priorities were set using input obtained at a General School Councils' meeting.
- Program and service delivery to be enhanced through partnerships with FSCD, FCSS, French as a Second Language, Student Health Program, CFS, AHS Addictions, RCMP, and John Howard Society.
- PowerSchool is expanding online communication with parents.
- Provide Generative Governance meetings between the Board and selected school communities using criteria outlined in Phase 1-A of the *Board Self-Evaluation* document.
- Seek stakeholder input on policy development and district and school planning processes.
- Presentation on the Role of School Council.
- Attend joint meetings with municipal counterparts.
- Lobby government on matters impacting the quality of educational services.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

- Work with PCS to coordinate services for students with special needs among neighboring school districts, AHS, CFS and other agencies.
- Partner with NRLC to offer Educational Assistant training programs during Teachers' Convention, along with training for specialized programming.
- Partner with local districts and community supporters on Grade 3 Reading University Summer Program.
- Support ongoing CRM refinement in all schools.
- Continue partnership with provincial and local ATA to offer a mentorship program for new teachers.
- Expand Junior ECS programming.
- CRM Dossier software to support staff discussions.

FINANCIAL RESULTS SUMMARY

Budgeted expenditures 2017-2018 (November 2017).



FUTURE CHALLENGES

- **Continued enrolment growth:** Recent changes to Alberta's economy have had a lesser impact on the Grande Prairie area. Student populations around Harry Balfour School, Clairmont Community School and Peace Wapiti Academy (PWA) continue to show growth. The Spring 2018 opening of Whispering Ridge Community School will address K-8 growth pressures, but straight line enrolment projections for PWA suggest it will exceed 100 per cent utilization.
- **Increased ride times:** Locating new schools outside the City of Grande Prairie will significantly reduce ride times for Bezanson and Penson students, but other challenges exist throughout the district. Transportation funding has failed to keep pace with actual costs, resulting in increased ride times. With fewer routes servicing the same geographical area, combined with pockets of rural depopulation, many PWSD students endure unacceptable ride times.
- **Student mental health:** Continues to be an issue in the Grande Prairie area. The Province's decision not to fund the School Health Project at Clairmont Community School, and removal of Student Health Program reserves (approximately \$0.5 million) and Complex Needs reserves (approximately \$0.5 million) limits PWSD's ability to address student health issues.

ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR HIGHLIGHTS

Results from the 2016-2017 Accountability Pillar Survey indicate that PWSD schools maintained or improved achievement in 11 of 12 categories.

SURVEY RESULTS – OCTOBER 2017	OVERALL
Safe and Caring	Excellent
Program of Studies	Good
Education Quality	Good
Drop Out Rate	Excellent
High School Completion Rate	Good
PATs: Acceptable	Acceptable
Diploma Exams: Acceptable	Good
Transition Rate	Acceptable
Work Preparation	Good
Citizenship	Issue
Parental Involvement	Good
School Improvement	Excellent

CAPITAL AND FACILITY PROJECTS

- **Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal (IMR)**
PWSD is pleased with the significant IMR investment made during the 2017-2018 period in roofing, mechanical, electrical, and construction.
- **Completion of the new Whispering Ridge Community School**
Planned for the spring of 2018. The K-8 school will serve approximately half of the current Harry Balfour School attendance area.

THREE-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN PRIORITIES

1. **Replacement Harry Balfour School**
PWSD is awaiting an announcement of a second K-8 school early in 2018, to be located on the east side of Grande Prairie. The school will serve the remaining students at Harry Balfour School and will be a partnership with the County of Grande Prairie who is providing land for the new facility.
2. **New 9-12 school located north of Grande Prairie**
A replacement school for Peace Wapiti Academy's attendance area, with a proposed opening capacity of 900 students, with build out to 1,100 students. Two proposed locations: west of the County RecPlex, or within Whispering Ridge subdivision.

Full versions of PWSD's 2017-2020 Three-Year Education Plan/Annual Education Results Report and Budget: <http://bit.ly/pwpsd-districtreports>