

Frequently Asked Questions - School Councils

Where is the PWPSD School Council web site?

Go to: <http://www.pwpsd76.ab.ca/Resources/ParentResources/councils/>

The School Councils' web site can also be accessed directly from the PWPSD's main page – www.pwpsd.ca



How is information communicated to School Council Chairs?

A PWPSD email account has been set up for each School Council Chair. Information is communicated to each School Council Chair through their PWPSD School Council Email. It is important that the School Council Chairs access their email accounts regularly.

School Council Chairs can access their email accounts by going to **mail.google.com** and using their email address, username and password to access their account. School principals will provide school council chairs with their email address, username and password.

Why and how often are Joint School Council/School Board Meetings held?

Once or twice a year PWPSD hosts a general meeting for all PWPSD school councils. The meeting is usually held at Sexsmith Secondary School because it is a central location for all of our schools. Most schools bring an administrator, the chair and the secretary-treasurer from their council, but other members are welcome. The meetings provide an opportunity for school councils to meet, network and discuss common issues. Suggestions for agenda items are always welcome. Email your trustee or the Corporate Secretary (see contact info below.) Current meeting dates are available on our web page: [Upcoming Events](#) or [PWPSD School Councils web site](#)

How can I learn more about School Councils?

- PWPSD's policy on School Councils provides information about how School Councils should operate, as well as supports that are provided for members, including attendance at the ASCA Annual General Meeting. See [Policy JC – School Councils](#).
 - Exhibit 1 – [Annual School Councils Report](#)
 - Exhibit 2 – [School Councils Timeline for Principals](#)
 - Exhibit 3 – [Request Procedure](#)
- See [PWPSD School Councils](#) web page for a wealth of information about council membership, legislation and regulations, Alberta School Councils' Association, PWPSD General School Councils Meetings and a School Council Toolbox.
 - Subscribe to the Alberta School Councils' Association ([ASCA](#)) [eNews](#) (all school council chairs' PWPSD email addresses have been signed up to receive ASCA newsletters.)

Are school councils subject to FOIP or PIPA?

School boards are considered 'public bodies' and are therefore subject to *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP)*. School councils are considered organizations and are subject to *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA)*. PIPA sets out requirements for the ways a school council may collect, use and disclose personal information.

Can schools release the names of school council members, for example, in a school newsletter?

For an elected member of the council, there is an expectation that the individual's name and contact information will be available to anyone. Schools should discuss with council members how their personal information will be used, for example, whether home phone numbers will be released, and to whom.

Need more information?

Contact your school principal, your local school board trustee or JoAnn Vanstone, Corporate Secretary at 780-532-8133

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