



**PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL  
DIVISION #76**

[www.pwsd76.ab.ca](http://www.pwsd76.ab.ca)

***BOARD NEWS & EVENTS***

***February 2, 2012***

**Dates to Remember**

**Wed. Feb. 8, 2012**

The Minister of Education will be hosting a teleconference with parent representatives on School Councils at 7:30 p.m. - see page 2.

**Thurs. Feb. 23, 2012**

Next Regular Board Meeting starts at 10:30 a.m.

**Tues. Mar. 20, 2012**

Next Joint School Board/School Councils Meeting at the Sexsmith Civic Centre 6:00 p.m. ([agenda](#))  
RSVP to your school by March 8, 2012.

[PWSD's new eSpotlight](#) is now up and running. This online version of our popular Spotlight publication will highlight events and programs from across the Division. You will be able to browse to eSpotlight from our [PWSD website](#) or through [FaceBook](#). The focus for this month is "Innovation".

**National Travel**

National travel to Quebec was approved for Eaglesham students and approved in principle for Ridgevalley students.

**Locally Developed Courses**

Locally developed courses for Learning Strategies, Forensic Science and Theatre Appreciation were approved for use in Peace Wapiti schools.

**Some of the Board discussions included:**

- **COLLABORATION** – At the request of the Village of Rycroft, the Board and the Village are starting discussions about the possibility of housing a community library at the Rycroft School. Community libraries are a great way that schools and their school community can work together - the enhanced library provides additional resources and programs that will benefit everyone.
- **PWSD will provide financial support for the North West Alberta 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Trades and Technology Skills Competition to be held in Fairview in April.** Students must qualify at Regionals prior to attending the provincial skills completion. An expanded event schedule now includes auto service, carpentry, cabinet making, culinary arts, welding, hairstyling, TV video production, baking, graphic design, fashion technology, IT network support, outdoor power and recreation equipment, robotics and workplace safety.
- **An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Trustees Cooke, Lappenbush and Schlieff was struck to work on designs for the Peace Wapiti Academy roof project.**
- **The Commodity Purchase Consortia is a group of School Boards that work to provide predictable energy costs at a competitive price. The Board agreed to provide a letter of intent to the CPC to participate in the Alberta Schools Wind Power Project – which is hoped to provide cost effective 'green' energy to member boards for 25 years.**
- **The ASBA Calls for By-Law Amendments and for Proposed Policy Positions were reviewed.**
- **Dawne Kurtz-McNaught, AISI Coordinator, reported that the next cycle for Alberta Initiative for School Improvement will investigate instructional strategies, such as differentiation and assessment, combined with a focus on 21 century learning.**

## Minister's Teleconference Call

Parent representatives on School Councils are invited to participate in a conference call with the Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk, Minister of Education to continue the discussion on priorities for Alberta's education system. Parents play an important role in their child's learning and the Minister is interested in directly hearing their ideas and perspectives.

The call will begin at **7:30 PM on Wednesday, February 8, 2012** and will take approximately 1.5 hours. When participants dial in they will be greeted by a conference operator asking for the participant pass code, the person's name, and school. The Minister will open the conference call. He will make his remarks which will be followed by a question and answer session with callers.

All questions and responses will be heard by all participants and the Minister will answer as many questions as possible in the time allotted. If you experience any problems during the conference call, please stay on the line to speak to the operator.

Due to the number of telephone lines that are available, school council members are encouraged to assemble together and call in as a group. For parent groups participating on the call, please have one member register on behalf of the group.

To participate on the call, individuals and groups must register in advance online at <http://education.alberta.ca/apps/Registration/TeleConference/>.

A call in number and participant pass code will be provided to the representative by email once registration is complete.

If participants have any questions regarding the teleconference, please contact Maureen Melnyk, Education Manager, Learning Supports & Information Management, at [maureen.melnyk@gov.ab.ca](mailto:maureen.melnyk@gov.ab.ca) or by telephone at 780-415-8324, or by calling toll free at 310-0000.

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Minister of Education  
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