



Peace Wapiti Public School Division

# BOARD NEWS

Central Office, 8611A - 108 Street, Grande Prairie, Alberta T8V 4C5 | [WWW.PWPSD.CA](http://WWW.PWPSD.CA)

MARCH 19, 2020

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

## 2021-2024 PWPSD Capital Plan approved for submission to Alberta Education – Board requesting two new schools, one modernization project



**URGENT:**

**1** REPLACEMENT  
Peace Wapiti Academy



*Graphic is a sample rendering only.*

**IMPORTANT:**

**2** NEW K-8 SCHOOL  
Clairmont area



**IMPORTANT:**

**3** MODERNIZATION  
Bonanza School

*In the PWPSD 2021-2024 Capital Plan, the Board has requested a replacement Peace Wapiti Academy, deeming it an urgent priority. A new K-8 school and a modernization project are categorized as important priorities.*

The Board has identified the need for two new schools and a modernization project in PWPSD's 2021-2024 Capital Plan, as presented by Deputy Superintendent Darren Young, for submission to Alberta Education by the April 1, 2020 deadline. The Board directed PWPSD administration to share the plan with local municipal officials.

The original list of urgent priorities included a replacement K-8 Harry Balfour School to address the school's continuing upward trend in enrollment. [Education Minister Adriana LaGrange personally confirmed full funding for this school during her visit to PWPSD Central Office on March 9.](#)

With the province's confirmation of full funding, the Board will send a follow-up letter and supporting documentation to County of Grande Prairie councillors, requesting a timeline for completion of a construction access road and site services at the land set aside at the Five Mile Hall location for the replacement Harry Balfour School.

The confirmation of full funding also shifts the replacement Peace Wapiti Academy (PWA) from second place to the top of the Board's Capital Plan priorities list. With the existing PWA facility at 100 per cent capacity, securing a replacement high school is necessary to address rapid student population growth in a large attendance area that encompasses five feeder schools – Bezanson, Penson, Clairmont Community, Whispering Ridge Community, and Harry Balfour.

Addressing excessive ride times for rural students is also a priority issue for PWPSD. By relocating HBS and PWA to the County of Grande Prairie, the Board will achieve another important goal – reducing early morning pick-ups and late drop-off times for rural students who are currently bused through the busy central core of Grande Prairie.

Two other projects are listed as important priorities.

A K-8 school, located in the Clairmont area will relieve enrollment pressure that is building in the Clairmont area due to continued population growth in the communities

and the surrounding rural areas. A new school would also insulate Clairmont Community School from projected enrollment increases. Projections indicate the school will continue to grow by 3.5 per cent annually over the next five years.

Modernization of the aging Bonanza School will ensure the facility continues to support the consistent enrollment experienced in past years.

[View the 2021-2024 PWPSD Capital Plan online.](#)

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## **ANNUAL REPORT: Community School Liaison Team**



District Principal Karen Chrenek and Registered Psychologist Heather Craigdallie led the annual Inclusive Education report to the Board.

Noting the value of prevention programs for youth to reduce the rates of behavioural, social, academic and psychological problems later on, Ms. Craigdallie outlined how PWPSD Community School Liaison Counsellor (CSLC) team members work one-on-one with students, run groups, provide classroom presentations, offer support to teachers and families, and bridge the gap between home and school.

This year alone, the team has made 212 individual referrals, offered 869 supports to parents and/or teachers, and provided more than 100 presentations.

"Within the schools CSLCs cover, they are reaching a really wide breadth of PWPSD's school population," added Ms. Craigdallie.

The CSLC team introduced three new initiatives since September.

The PWPSD Wellness Pyramid is a four-tier assessment tool designed to better meet the needs of students and staff. Part of PWPSD's Three-Year Wellness Plan, the pyramid model offers supports for students and staff.

The team set a goal that every student should have a positive connection with at least one adult. A pilot project launched at Beaverlodge Regional High School this year saw teachers answering five questions to indicate their knowledge of students. Outcomes from the survey were used to create a "connection score" for each student, and helped teachers identify trends and develop steps to increase connection. The initiative has since been replicated at a number of PWPSD schools.

Mental Health Mondays, a monthly e-newsletter for PWPSD staff, is a new CSLC-led initiative launched this school year to support wellness outcomes for staff and students. Ms. Chrenek said CSLCs are seeing the ripple effects of this piece. "Our schools are starting staff meetings with topics covered in the newsletter and teachers are also using the self-care tips in their health classes."

The team also provides crisis support to staff and students at PWPSD schools who may be experiencing grief following the death of a student or staff member.

Two accredited practitioners offer Triple P: Family Parent Educational Program supports and strategies to all PWPSD schools, ranging from parenting sessions to intensive family interventions.

Future plans include developing a survey for schools to create their own wellness plans.

**About the CSLC team:**

PWPSD's six-member CSLC team and contracted service providers offer social-emotional interventions to children and youth at PWPSD schools. Feedback from teachers, parents and students is overwhelmingly positive. The CSLC program was

initially funded by the now defunct Classroom Improvement Fund. Recognizing the needs in the area and the value of the program, the PWPSD Board approved a budget to ensure service continuity, along with funded support from Birch Hills County, Saddle Hills County, the M.D. of Greenview and the County of Grande Prairie FCSS.

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## **Board meeting schedule approved**

The 2020-2021 board meeting schedule has been approved to include 10 meetings at Central Office, and one meeting at the Sub Office in Spirit River. The annual organizational meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on September 3, 2020 at Central Office, followed by a regular board meeting at 11:00 a.m. [View the schedule.](#)

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## **Education Minister approves transfer to cover transportation deficit**

Education Minister Adriana LaGrange approved the Board's request to transfer \$780,281 from capital reserves to support PWPSD's projected 2019-2020 transportation operating deficit.

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## **Travel request**

The Board provided approval in principle for Spirit River Regional Academy to travel internationally to Italy and Greece during Spring Break 2022. Approval for all travel is pending compliance with *Policy HCGC – Off-Site Activities*. Final approval will also be contingent on official 2022 travel advisories.

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## Committee and meeting reports

- Secretary Treasurer Ralph Paquin reported on the Health and Safety Committee meeting.
  - Trustee Anderson reported on the ASBA Zone 1 meeting.
  - Trustee Knull reported on the Rural Caucus of Alberta meeting and the meeting between PWPSD and the County of Grande Prairie held on March 12.
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## Upcoming events

The established [PWPSD 2019-2020 School Year Calendar](#) will continue as planned, despite the indefinite cancellation of classes. Staff and students will continue to observe all non-operational days and holidays.

- **Kindergarten registration is now open:** [Register online from the comfort of your own home](#). A birth certificate and proof of residency are required for registration. [Learn more about Kindergarten on the PWPSD website](#).
- **Good Friday and Easter Monday:** April 10 and April 13. No school. PWPSD offices and shops will be closed.
- **Easter Break:** No school, Tuesday, April 14-17.
- **Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, April 23, 10:30 a.m., Central Office, Grande Prairie.

[Media: Request an interview](#)





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## PWPSD BOARD NEWS

A report on news from Peace Wapiti Public School Division,  
published following each Board Meeting.

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