



Peace Wapiti Public School Division

Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2022 - General School Councils Meeting - 06:30 PM (Virtual or at your local school)

1. Meeting Logistics

The General School Councils Meeting was held via Google Meet. School Council members either joined the meeting remotely from their homes or met at their school. (Supper was provided for those attending at their school provided they registered.)

2. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Dana McIntosh.

3. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the homeland of many diverse First Nations and Metis people and their ancestors here in Treaty 8 Territory.

4. Welcome and Introductions

The trustees and administration attending the meeting were introduced.

5. Division Update

The PWPSD Division Update document (attached) was shared with attendees.

Trustee McIntosh:

In addition to highlighting the requirements for Multi Factor Authentication for School Chair email accounts, she reminded of the Alberta School Council Engagement Grant, through which each School Council can receive \$500 to better support individual school councils and strengthen engagement with parents. She also provided a verbal update on the new draft curriculum and expressed appreciation to everyone who has advocated to the provincial government to delay the curriculum implementation.

6. Wellness Presentation

Heather Craigdallie and Ashley Mercer, members of the PWPSD Inclusive Coaches Team, presented on Wellness Services in PWPSD. (Slides attached.)

7. ASCA Conference and AGM

Trustee Clarke:

Provided information about the Annual Conference to be held on April 22 and 23 and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is April 24. Both are online events.

8. Adjournment

Door prizes were awarded. Each school awarded a door prize to attendees at their location. A Division door prize was also awarded to Warren Wohglemuth, whose name was drawn from all the registrations. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Kindergarten & New Student Registration is ongoing.

Register online and learn more at www.pwpsd.ca/registration

Diploma Exams

April, June & August
Info & schedules: <https://www.alberta.ca/diplo-ma-exams-overview.aspx>

Easter Break

Friday, April 15 & Monday, April 18 | No school - offices & shops closed

ASCA Conference & AGM

April 22-24 | virtually

Administrator Meetings

April 26, June 7

Upcoming Board meetings

April 28, May 26, June 16
10:30 a.m. | Central Office

3D Charity Tournaments

May 6 at 8:30 a.m.
Soccer: CKC Field
Ball Hockey: Adjacent parking lot to the north of CKC Field

PATs

May 10 & 11
June 15, 20 & 22-24

Victoria Day

Monday, May 23 | No school, offices & shops closed

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Colours and other elements shown in this rendering may vary from the completed project.

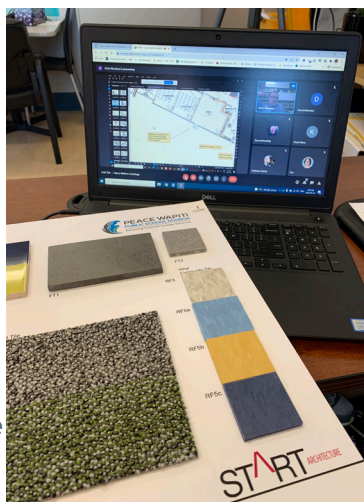
Harry Balfour replacement school going to tender

The layout has been finalized and the colours have been chosen; the Harry Balfour replacement school, which will be located on the Five Mile Hall site east of the city of Grande Prairie, is ready for construction.

The project is anticipated to go to tender in the coming weeks; soon after the contract for a general contractor will be awarded and construction will begin.

The replacement school, that the Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange announced on November 1, 2019, will reflect elements of Whispering Ridge Community School in addition to its own style.

Staff at Harry Balfour School, and throughout the Division, have been working hard to prepare for this phase of the project, and are excited to see the drawings come to life.



Sexsmith Sabres fill the trophy case

The Sexsmith Sabres football team has been on a role since winning the Provincial title this past fall. In February, Coach James Watson was honoured with Football Alberta's Coach of the Year award. The provincial organization called Mr. Watson a "fantastic coach and mentor", and his team could not agree more.



The players continued to represent their school during the 2022 Northwest Alberta Sport Excellence Awards in March, where 35 individuals and organizations were nominated for awards. The Sabres brought home the Team of the Year award, while Teron Anderson, the team's Running Back, was named Male Athlete of the Year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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Graduation Ceremonies

May 7, 21 & 27

June 18, 28

July 9

Information about individual ceremonies will be shared on our website and social media pages shortly.

Last day of school for students

June 28

Last day of school for staff

June 29

PWPSD Indigenous Youth Role Models



Inti Burnham, Grade 7 student at Helen E. Taylor School, and three PWPSD alumni received Indigenous Youth Role Model awards at the 2022 Spirit Seekers Youth Conference, held at Northwestern Polytechnic in March. Inti brought home the Mental Wellness award from the junior youth category. **Shanielle Macdonald** received the Melodie Wilton Memorial Award, while **Serenity Davis** earned the Delaine Lambert-English Memorial Award. **Travis Letendre**, PWPSD alumnus who is currently working with Indigenous students at Beaverlodge Regional High School, received the Physical Wellness award in the Senior Youth category.

PWPSD ACHIEVEMENTS

PWPSD staff bring home Passionate Heart Exceptional Service Awards

Three PWPSD staff were awarded Passionate Heart Exceptional Service Awards at this year's February 14 celebration. Mrs. Sheila Payeur of Clairmont Community School, Ms. Alpha-Dawn Campbell of Beaverlodge Elementary School, and Mrs. Debbie Hammel of Robert W. Zahara School received their awards for their exceptional front line service in education. Congratulations!



Congratulations to the Sexsmith Secondary School's Senior Boys' and Girls' Provincial Curling Champions! These eight curlers made history as the first high school in Alberta to ever win two Provincial Golds at the same event. Go Sabres!



Left to right: Mrs. Payeur, Ms. Campbell & Mrs. Hammel

2020-2021 ACADEMIC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

PWPSD's Board of Trustees honoured former students for their academic achievements during the past 2020-2021 school year during the February 24 Board meeting.

Each year, **Academic Awards of Excellence** in the amount of \$100 are presented to graduates with an academic average above 90 per cent. This past school year there were 19 students who achieved this undeniably difficult feat.

Peace Wapiti Academy's **Elena Ewert** was named the **Top Student in the Division** and received a \$300 award for her accomplishment.

Top Student in School Awards, given in the amount of \$100, went to Alexis Laurin of Eaglesham School, Marisa Jeresky of Peace Wapiti Enterprise Centre, and Levi Boychuk of Spirit River Regional Academy, for achieving the highest average, of at least 80 per cent, at their schools.



(Left to right - top row) Kyley Banks, Levi Boychuk, Jolie Burkin, Coner Cram, Kaitlyn Dawe, Jessie Derksen, Elena Ewert, Reagan Forbes
(Left to right - middle row) Chantel Jack, Marisa Jeresky, Maryn Johnson, Faith Johnstone, Alexis Laurin, Brandi Moody, Rayton Pawlowski, Sophie Roy
(Left to right - bottom row) Dana Schlawitz, Wyatt Soucy, Emmerson Sutherland, Faith Vetsch, Averie Villiger, Madison Villiger



Multi-factor authentication required for all PWPSD users

Multi-factor authentication is an electronic safety control that requires you to provide two or more verification factors to gain access to an application like your email.

For security and insurance purposes, PWPSD has now implemented multi-factor authentication for all its email accounts. As School Council Chair, you will now have to set up multi-factor authentication and confirm your identity from time to time, using codes that you will receive by text message or phone call, before accessing your inbox.

An email will be sent to all Council Chair email accounts with instructions on this process. If you require additional support, reach out to your school administrator.



April 22, 23, 24, 2022

School Councils Conference

Annual General Meeting
Alberta School Councils' Association

Registration now open for ASCA Annual Conference and AGM

The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) Annual Conference and AGM will be held virtually via Zoom on April 22 - 24. The 2022 event will consider **School Councils: Cultivating Compassion**, promoting the work of school council and wellbeing in the school community to benefit student success.

PWPSD supports the attendance of school council members at ASCA annual conferences by covering the registration fee for up to two school council members per school.

As members of ASCA, PWPSD School Councils should select the reduced ASCA member rate when registering online. Conference fees must be paid by credit card. Delegates may choose to cover their own registration fee and submit receipts to their school for reimbursement, or ask school staff to register them directly.

The online event will begin on Friday, April 22 at 12:30 p.m

Register online by **Friday, April 15** by visiting albertaschoolcouncils.ca.

**Suitable for desktop, laptops, tablets, and smart phones. Participants can join from a PC, Mac, iOS, or Android device.*

School Councils

School councils are an important forum through which members of school communities play an advisory role in school improvement planning.

A school council is a vehicle to support meaningful parental involvement in decisions that affect the school and its operations. It provides the venue for parents to reflect the wishes of the broader community for the education of its students and to actively participate in giving advice and support to the principal in the operations of the school.

School Councils' Core Activities: advise the principal and Board on educational issues that pertain to the school; establish and review school council's goals, objectives, action plans and procedures; communicate and consult with parents and the school community; meet regularly.

As the primary role is advisory, school councils are not eligible to incorporate as societies. It is not the primary intent of school councils to fundraise or lobby.

Roles that are not taken on by a school council include: school governance; employment issues; school management; listening to complaints.

ASCA Workshops

The Funding Manual for School Authorities provides school councils with \$500 to use for activities and projects, such as workshops, that are designed to enhance school council effectiveness and parent engagement in public education.

To view the 2022 Workshops Brochure, request a workshop, or learn more about other support services, visit the ASCA website at albertaschoolcouncils.ca.

You've got mail!



PWPSD School Council Chairs: Remember to check your Division-issued generic email accounts for important information. Click the webmail link (under 'Utility Links') at www.pwpsd.ca.

Where is your bus?

All buses are on time.

The best way to stay up-to-date on your bus' status is to download the Bus Status app! The user-friendly app allows you to follow any bus route you choose. Find full instructions on how to download and use the app at www.pwpsd.ca.

NEW! KinderSmart at Harry Balfour School

Harry Balfour School will begin offering KinderSmart programming this fall. New for the 2022-2023 school year, KinderSmart offers four-day Kindergarten, Monday to Thursday, and will run the full school day.

Students will enjoy two full days of Kindergarten programming and curricular outcomes with a certified teacher, and two full days of programming with an Early Childhood Services instructor.

Staff at Harry Balfour School say they are excited to offer this program to students and are looking forward to its start this fall.

KinderSmart is available to all children turning five in 2022, and will cost \$325 per month.

Families wanting to register their child in KinderSmart at Harry Balfour School, or in Kindergarten at any other PWPSD school, can do so by visiting www.pwpsd.ca/registration.

Mr. O'Shea: Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Shawn O'Shea, current principal of Whispering Ridge Community School, has accepted the position of **Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services**, and will begin his new role in August.

He has worked with the Division for 15 years and is excited to continue his PWPSD career in a new capacity. "I am excited to join the administrative team and I am looking forward to working with and supporting the learning communities throughout our Division."

Congratulations Mr. O'Shea!



Eggleston to start offering Junior Kindergarten

Eggleston School, with the support of families, will begin offering Junior Kindergarten programming this upcoming school year. The entire school community is thrilled about this parent-driven initiative, and staff are excited to get started!

GOOD NEWS

PWA band students perform in Youth Wind Symphony of Alberta

Iva Henheffer and Liam Mahood performed as part of the Youth Wind



Symphony of Alberta, an honour band program for talented high school musicians from across the province. It provides high school aged musicians the opportunity to work with some of the finest concert band conductors, grow musically, and meet other musically vibrant instrumentalists.

Approximately 75 Albertans participated in the event, performing in front of 700 people at Red Deer Polytechnic on March 6, 2022.

Staff attend literacy workshops



Grade 1-6 teachers had the opportunity to participate in literacy workshops hosted by PWPSD's Instructional Coaches. The workshops, which were held as part of the Province's Learning Loss Project, focused on sound production, penmanship, synthetic phonics, and writing.



The Peace Wapiti Public School Division Update is a report on news from PWPSD, produced for the annual General School Councils' Meeting.

*Photos supplied by staff and Travis Brown Photography.

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Communications Officer
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Wellness Services in PWPSD

Presentation to School Council

Heather Craigdallie, MEd, R.Psych
Ashley Mercer, MSW, RSW





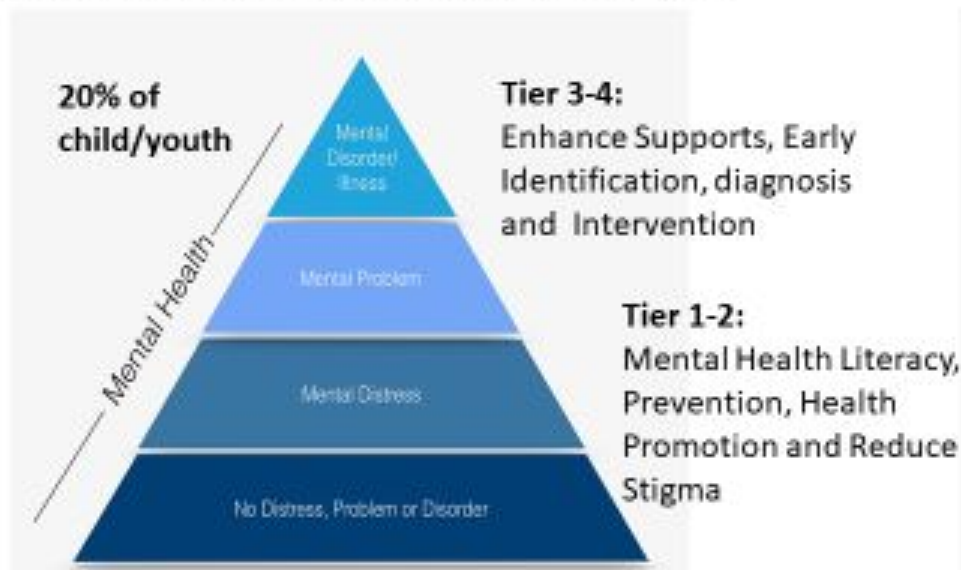
Adapted from: Myers, D., & Wee, D.F. (2004). Disaster Mental Health Services: A Primer for Practitioners. Psychology Press.
Zunin, L.M., & Myers, D. (2000). Training Manual for Human Service Workers in Major Disasters 2nd Ed.

PFA Child & Youth Virtual Support Training for Pandemics. Version: 02. Revised: 2020-08. © 2020, Alberta Health Services, Mental Health Promotion & Illness Prevention.

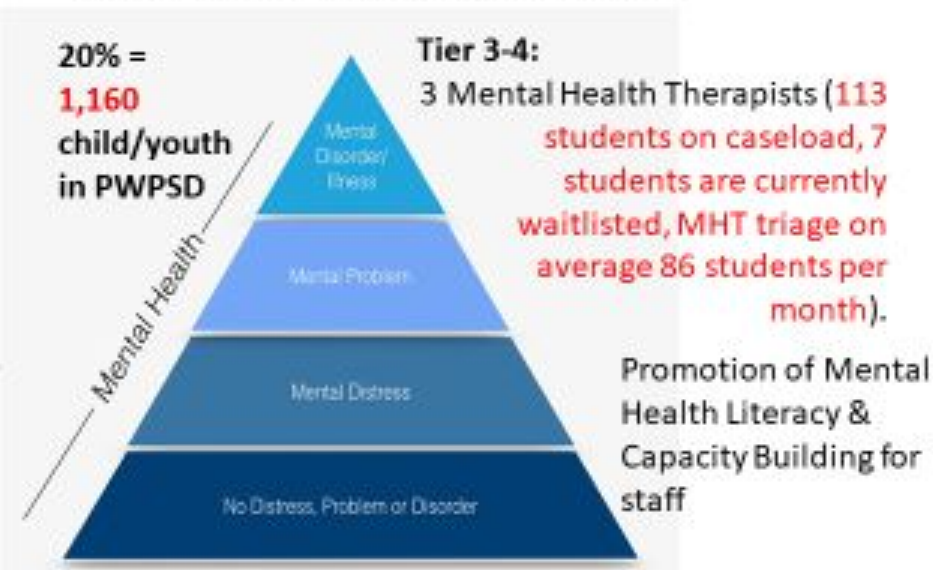
CONTINUUM OF MENTAL HEALTH IN A PANDEMIC

Mental Health Prevalence and PWPSD

Prevalence and Intervention Recommendations



Prevalence in PWPSD and Interventions



- 70% of mental health disorders are identified between 12-25.
- Building capacity amongst school staff plays integral role in early identification, diagnosis and treatment.

Mental Health Supports in PWPSD

Specialized services to effectively meet the needs of staff and students

- PWPSD and FCSS Community School Liaison Counsellors
- Mental Health Therapists
- PCS consultation services
- Family Education and Support Program
- VTRA partners (RCMP, Children's Mental Health, Children's Services)
- Tri District Mental Health Capacity Team

- Student disconnection. Reporting high levels of stress, mental health problems and grief and loss
- Staff burnout and exhaustion - mental health stressors during pandemic has had a significant impact
- Significant increase in support needed for families
- Meeting the mental health and learning needs of our students
 - Many of our students have not been in our buildings, or have not been in them consistently, since March of 2020
 - Gaps in academics can impact mental health
 - For some, the stress of returning to in-person learning is significant

Areas of Concern

- New processes, and often significant waitlists, to access mental health and addiction services in our communities
- Youth Day Treatment Facility Paused/Closed
- Significant waitlists psychiatric supports, especially for in-patient services (none of which are located in Grande prairie)
- Covid has impacted different schools and communities in diverse ways, we need tailored supports to meet needs across the district

Gaps In Service

So What Are We Doing?

2021-2022 initiatives

- Assurance Wellness Committee
- Additional Mental Health Therapist position (4 year commitment from the board)
- Suicide Risk Assessment protocol roll-out
- Updated bereavement response protocol
- Update internal documents to support effective triage (Student Learner Profile, PWPSD QLE, Student First Framework for Learning)
- MHT trained in Dialectical Behavior Therapy to support high risk teens
- Mental Health Capacity Building Team roll out of Mental Health Literacy Curriculum across division

Looking To The Future...

- Assess the impact of covid and determine the wellness needs our schools, staff and students.
 - Developing a formal assessment that aligns with the new assurance model
 - The results will be available for school planning that will be supported by school-based wellness teams
 - Will continue to target the Universal Wellness Outcomes created in our original 3 year plan (with a few updates)

Universal Wellness Goals

Foundational Supports

- Sleep, Nutrition, Physical Activity, Nature

Connection

- Every student has a positive connection with at least one adult in the school
- Every staff member has a positive connection with at least one other staff member in the school
- Every family has a positive connection with at least one adult at the school

Foundational Self-Care for Staff

- Each school has developed practices to support staff wellness
- Each school has a designated wellness committee/team
- All staff are engaged in practices to promote balance and positive mental/physical health

Internal Systems

- Take steps to create an environment that promotes safety
- Each school has systems in place to support inclusion (everyone has a place regardless of background, culture, experience, ability, gender, sexuality etc.)
- Schools understand and are able/prepared to effectively execute the suicide intervention protocol and crisis response plan
- Each school has systems in place to support open and clear communication
- Each school can effectively triage student/staff/family needs

Information and Learning

- All staff have worked to develop a common language around issues of wellness and behavior-Mental Health Literacy
- All staff have received information on trauma informed practice

Building a Healthy Community

- Create opportunities to eat together/celebrate together/create together
- Create opportunities to give back
- Each school takes steps to build connections in the community

ASCA Annual Conference & General Meeting

The 2022 annual ASCA conference and general meeting will both be presented online using Zoom.

Conference

- The ASCA Conference starts on Friday, April 22 from 12:30 pm until 5 pm, and continues through Saturday April 23 from 8:45 am to 4:30 pm,
- This event offers the opportunity to engage in provincial education and network with others on school council. There will be development sessions, information sharing and resources for the school community.
- The theme for the event is “**School Councils: Cultivating Compassion**”, promoting the work of school council and wellbeing in the school community to benefit student success.
- Sessions will offer elements of inclusion, resilience, student wellbeing, curriculum, assessment, healthy schools, and leadership.
- Vendor sponsors with products, services, and resources relevant to schools, communities and fundraising associations will be participating.
- Prizes are available to be won by entering draws and contest activities.
- Breakout sessions topics may include the new Math, Literacy, Phys Ed Curriculum, Standardized Testing and Classroom Assessment, Financial Literacy, Inclusive Education and more.
- Keynote speakers include
 - **David Irvine** – who will be discussing Cultivating Compassion as School Council Leaders. David is a widely sought-after speaker, author, and trusted leadership advisor. His work has helped build accountable, authentic organizations across North America, making him one of the most respected voices on leadership and organizational culture
 - **Dana Fulwiler** – who will be presenting on Alberta Child and Youth Well-Being. This session will explore how lessons learned during the pandemic (and beyond) can enable us to grow and bounce *forward* with even greater perspective, compassion, coordination, and collective wellbeing
 - Sandra Woitas will finish up with Moving Forward: What Now?
Dr. Sandra Woitas was honored as one of the 100 Edmontonians of the

Century. She is a long-time educator and tireless advocate for the needs of Edmonton's most disadvantaged children and families

AGM

- The ASCA 2022 Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday April 24, 2022 from 8:30 am to 4 pm.
- There are **three pre-AGM sessions scheduled for Saturday evening at 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm**. They are
 - Candidates Corner,
 - Parliamentary Procedures, and
 - Resolution Discussion
- One of the most important events for parents on school council is the association **Annual General Meeting** (or the AGM).
- The business meeting starts early and continues until all resolutions proposed for policy are debated and voted upon, as well as the **election of the new governing Board**.
- All the materials for the AGM are in the Meeting Documents section of the ASCA web page.
- Each school council that is attending needs to designate a parent to vote on its behalf. The Credential Voting Form must be completed and submitted to ASCA by April 15 at 5 PM
- If your school council cannot attend the AGM, you can designate a parent representative from an alternate School Council that is attending the AGM who will be able to vote on their behalf. The Proxy Voting Form must be completed and submitted to ASCA by April 15 at 5 PM.
 - JoAnn will send out an email to all the 'School Council Chair' Email Group asking School Councils to share who is attending from their school council. Then, those schools who need a use a proxy form can contact one of those who are attending.
- You will also find the Advocacy Resolutions package on the ASCA Site. School councils should review and discuss the resolutions before the AGM. Your school principal, your local trustee or Central Office can help provide more information about how a resolution may impact your school and our school division.

Registration

- Registration for the Alberta School Councils' Association Annual Conference and General Meeting 2021 is now open and closes on April 15, 2022 at 5:00 PM.
- Our Board is very supportive of this organization and has agreed to support the attendance of two members from each PWPSD School Council.
- Support includes registration fees for a pre-conference session, the conference and the Annual General meeting (and in non-covid circumstances, hotel accommodations, transportation, and meals).
- Registration for the ASCA Annual Conference and General Meeting 2021 closes at 5 PM on Friday, April 16, 2021. A link to the ASCA Registration Form is included in the agenda
- PWPSD will cover the cost of the registration for two members from each School Council. Note that there is no charge for the one parent that is the designated (credentialed) voting delegate for your school council to attend the AGM, so three school council members could attend the AGM for the price of two. School Council members may pay for the registration and submit a claim to the school for reimbursement. Alternatively, the school may choose to use their Purchasing Card to pay for school council members' registration.