

Background

In 2008-2009, Pembina Hills Public Schools was notified that it was named as a beneficiary of former Barrhead resident, Meta Harrison. Ms. Harrison indicated her intent for the funds; she wanted PHPS to establish a scholarship for students graduating from Barrhead Composite High School who hope to pursue post-secondary education and that only the interest generated by the fund would be used as scholarships.

Presentation Script

“The Meta Harrison Scholarship has been established especially to support Barrhead students who have demonstrated resiliency and whose career-path is leading them to trade and/or apprenticeship programs”.

Selection Process

The administration team and counsellors of Barrhead Composite High School, after consultation with teachers and support staff, will consider ‘nominees’ suggested by staff members. Scholarship recipients will be selected by unanimous agreement of the administration team and the counsellors. The criteria for selection are described below.

- Two (2) Meta Harrison Scholarships will be awarded annually. Distribution of scholarship funds is described below.

Given the criteria of this scholarship; (without financial support, post-secondary training is out of reach); recipients need to be **determined prior to Spring Break** each year, and the students must be informed. This scholarship is intended to provide the hope and motivation needed to support the student in their career path. The recipients need to know they have support for a plan after high school.

Selection Criteria

Any staff member at Barrhead Composite High School may suggest to the administration team and counsellors, grade 12 students who demonstrate the characteristics below.

- **At Risk Factors:** The student will have been considered ‘at risk’ of not completing high school during their time in school, especially during their late junior high, early senior high school years. Factors can include, but not be limited to, commonly accepted factors that impact successful high school completion such as:

(From the “Administrator’s Guide to Raising Alberta’s High School Completion Rate”. Alberta Education. 2009)

Individual Risk Factors

- Medical conditions
- Disabilities that impact learning
- Psychological/mental health problems
- Adjustment/temperament problems

- Belonging to minority groups impacted by poverty; limited English language proficiency
- Dissatisfaction/alienation/hostility; low attachment to school

Family Risk Factors

- Poverty
- High mobility resulting in school moves
- Low education level of parents
- Large number of siblings or siblings that do not complete high school
- Living apart from parents; abusive caretaking; family dysfunction
- Low expectations for achievement
- Adult responsibilities; inadequate child-care
- Exposure or participation in high-risk behaviours

School Risk Factors

- Lack of school engagement
- Negative encounters with teachers; grade retention; suspensions/expulsions
- Repeated failure; academic difficulty keeping up or completing homework
- Negative/high-risk peer connections or rejection by peers
- Community Risk Factors

- **Demonstrated resiliency:** Children who experience chronic adversity fare better or recover more successfully when they have ‘permitted’ or pursued the following:
 - A positive relationship with a competent adult
 - Effective learning and problem-solving strategies
 - Engagement with others
 - Areas of personal competence
 - Personal initiative or motivation
 - Respect for themselves and others

A Plan, Vision or Dream (Career Path): While the child may not have had the most successful first few semesters in high school, their acceptance of the guidance of a trusted adult has helped them to focus their future plans on a specific career path. For this scholarship, the career path requires post-secondary training.

- High School completion is probable by the end of the current school year
- Without financial support, post-secondary training is out of reach
- The institution has (conditionally) accepted the individual OR the individual qualifies or can easily be registered in the training program
- The training program will lead to gainful employment

Registration of the Meta Harrison Scholarship

- PHPS’s Secretary Treasurer will designate a fund manager.
- The school administration will ensure that a staff member is designated to assist the Scholarship Recipient to complete a formal registration process.
- The registration form will become a record of the Meta Harrison Scholarship distribution, and will provide the fund manager with information to facilitate the appropriate and efficient distribution of funds.
- In addition to information for the student about how to obtain payment, the registration form must include the following information:
 - Student Name
 - Birth-date
 - Alberta Education Student Number
 - Social Insurance Number

- Student's Address
- Student's Phone number
- Student's Bank Transit numbers
- Student's Bank Account numbers
- Institution Name
- Program/Faculty

Distribution of Funds

| June 2010 | June 2011 | | June 2012 and so on... |
|---|---|--|---|
| Student 1 - \$3,000 + Student 2 - \$3,000 Total: \$6,000 | Student 1 - \$2,000 ¹ + Student 2 - \$2,000 | Student 3 - \$3,000 + Student 4 - \$3,000 | Students 3, 4, 5 and 6... Total: \$10,000 |
| | Total: \$10,000 | | |

¹ In the event that a recipient does not attend the second year, or the program does not include a second year, less than \$10,000 will be distributed.

Funds may be used for tuition, residence, books and resources, and/or tools of the trade.

The fund manager will distribute funds in a timely manner. Payments will be made directly to the institution when the recipient provides the bill or invoice to PHPS. Alternatively, the student may submit payment receipts to PHPS for reimbursement.

It is advisable that the student ensure the anticipated expenses are appropriate to the conditions of the scholarship.

- **For training programs lasting two or more years:**
 - An initial scholarship of \$3,000 will be provided to the recipient for the costs of year one of the training program.
 - A second portion of \$2,000 will be provided to the recipient after successful completion of the first year of the program, for the costs of the second year of the training program.
- **For training programs lasting one year:**
 - A scholarship of \$3,000 will be provided to the recipient for the costs of the training program.
- **For training programs lasting less than a full year:** Some programs are not designed as a typical academic year. They may be delivered as modules or separate certifications, each requiring distinct registration, attendance and evaluation. (E.g. Industrial safety training certifications, Aesthetician certifications, etc.)
 - A scholarship of \$3,000 will be provided to the recipient for the costs of the training program.

In the event that the Scholarship recipient takes one year off prior to attending a Post Secondary institution, the student would still be eligible for the scholarship. Only a one-year break is permitted.

Regarding length of programs:

The length of the program is described here in 'years'. However, program length differs from institution to institution. An academic 'year' is therefore the typically understood length of time accepted by the institution. The INTENT is to support the student in achieving success in the

training program, and not to limit their potential because the program of choice is shorter, or longer, than a university's defined academic year.

Scholarship Review

The scholarship criteria, distribution and conditions will be reviewed during the first semester of every third year. That is, by the end of January...

2013 2016 2019 2022 2025 2028 2031 2034 2037 2040 2043

Participants of the review shall include:

- The Secretary-Treasurer (and Division's Accountant)
- The Director of Student Services (or similar role)
- The Associate Superintendent, Education Services (or similar role)
- The Barrhead Composite High School Administration team
- The Barrhead Composite High School Counsellor

The review shall consider:

- Can the fund continue to sustain \$10,000 distribution each year?
 - If no, consider a means by which to reduce the amount.
 - If yes, then continue to provide the scholarship according to the conditions described.
 - If yes, and more, consider the typical tuition and resource expenses for the types of programs this scholarship is intended to support. If they have risen substantially, increase the amount of the scholarship. Remember the intention is to provide financial support, without which, the student would not be able to pursue post-secondary training.
 - If yes and significantly more, consider establishing a subsidiary fund to support other jurisdiction high school students in a similar fashion, while maintaining the original values and principles defined by Meta Harrison.

A record of the reviews shall be maintained by both PHPS's regional office and the Barrhead Composite High School, for the duration of the scholarship distribution.

Reference

[Form 2-19 Meta Harrison Scholarship Application Form](#)

This document was originally composed in March and April, 2010 by the following committee participants:

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Mark Thiesen – Director of Instructional Services

Rob McGarva – Director of Student Services

Pauletta Renkema – Barrhead Composite High School Principal

Karen Fischer – Barrhead Composite High School Associate Principal

Lorraine Allison – PHPS Accountant

Greg Gramlich – High School Completion Liaison