

# Board Highlights – November 9, 2015



We provide these highlights as a quick overview of PHRD Board of Trustees' meetings. Please see the [official minutes](#) for the complete record of the board's decisions.

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## School board to gather student voice as it develops 2016-17 Education Plan

Each year, the PHRD School Board gathers input from a cross-section of stakeholders as it develops the Education Plan which guides the division's work. This year the school board is putting extra effort into gathering students' perspectives. On Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> the school board will host students from across the division. This [schedule](#) details the process and timelines for developing the 2016-17 Education Plan.

## No schools or programs will be closed this year

The school board accepted administration's recommendation that no schools or programs be considered for closure this year. According to [AP 20-09](#), each year, PHRD administration reviews the division's schools against these criteria to assess if any school or program should be considered for closure:

- How many students are we expecting to attend in the future?
- What are the school utilization rates?
- Are there health/safety threats?
- Are fewer than 60 per cent of the students in the school's attendance area attending the school?
- Does operating the school create excessive costs for the division?
- Is the school hitting a critical minimum enrolment?

In making its [recommendation](#) to the board, administration also considered whether students are receiving a quality education. While two schools – Fort Assiniboine and Swan Hills – did meet some of the criteria to be considered for closure, taking all the criteria into consideration, the results were not significant enough to warrant consideration for closure this year.

## School board adopts name "Pembina Hills Public Schools" for use in division communications

The PHRD School Board adopted the name Pembina Hills Public Schools for use in division communications. Including the words Public Schools in the name communicates the jurisdiction's core focus and business. The school division will retain the legal name Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7 for use in legal contexts.

## Revised administrative procedure sets out student code of conduct

Assistant Superintendent of Education Services Mark Thiesen presented PHRD's [Student Code of Conduct](#) to the school board. Informed by input from the division's administrators, the code of conduct is based on the former Student Rights and Responsibilities administrative procedure which was modified to align the school board's policies and procedures with the incoming Education Act. As learning organizations, PHRD schools will respond to code of conduct breaches on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration the individual student and their specific circumstances, said Thiesen. He noted that for the majority of students, being engaged learners in welcoming and safe classrooms removes most conditions that develop into behavior issues. He added that the code of conduct emphasizes the characteristics of a good citizen rather than identifying a list of misbehaviors. The goal: to bring a positive perspective to managing student behavior.

**The next board meeting** is Nov. 25 at the Regional Services Office in Barrhead starting at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.