

Board Highlights – March 2, 2016



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

For more information contact **Tracy Meunier**, Secretary Treasurer at 780-674-8504.

We distribute the board highlights to local media, local government officials, (MLAs, MPs, local town and county councils) and all Pembina Hills staff.

The highlights are also posted in Latest News on our website and emailed to our news subscribers.

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No change to bussing for students going to out-of-attendance-area schools

The school board will not cut bus service for students who choose to attend out-of-attendance-area-schools. Trustees voted against the change, saying: stopping the service would disrupt family and children's routines and the move wouldn't make community schools more viable because overall the division is losing students. The board made the decision after gathering feedback at two community engagement evenings and through an online survey.

School board nominates local reporter for provincial award

In recognition of his excellent coverage of the school division and its schools, the school board nominated Westlock News reporter **Kevin Berger** for the Public School Boards Association of Alberta's award recognizing a media outlet's special contribution to public school education. Award winners will be announced at the PSBAA Fall Annual General Meeting.

"Kevin Berger is an important community partner to the Pembina Hills Public Schools Board of Trustees," said board chair Jennifer Tuininga. "He attends and reports twice a month on our board meetings in our local papers of Westlock and Barrhead, in addition to covering the many events at our community schools. His factual reporting provides our communities with excellent coverage of the discussion and decisions being made at the board table. Kevin's shorthand results in great articles that profile what is happening in our schools and the learning and special activities of our students. He asks insightful questions of the board and reports fairly on our work, checking facts and working various shifts to attend significant board events or consultations. In a rural school division where our schools cover a vast geographic area we are grateful to have an experienced reporter who is dedicated to covering public education in Pembina Hills."

School board explores demolition of W. R. Frose school

The school board is disposing of W. R. Frose school in Fawcett. The board sought proposals from groups interested in taking over the building. However, after a recent inspection revealed the building poses significant health and safety risks, the school board has decided not to hand the building over to a third party. The board has asked administration to get a quote for demolishing the building.

Key dates in next year's school calendar

The school board approved the 2016-2017 school year calendar. It will be posted on the PHPS website shortly; in the meantime, here are some key dates:

- First day of school: Aug 31, 2016
- Christmas Break: Dec 23, 2016 - Jan 6, 2017
- Spring Break: March 27-31, 2017
- Last day of school: June 29, 2017

School board extends condolences to family of Matthew Clausen

Matthew Clausen, a Grade 11 student at R. F. Staples was killed in a car accident on Feb. 29.

The next board meeting is March 23, 2016 at Regional Office in Barrhead starting at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome.