

Board Highlights – March 23, 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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Board proposes 18 changes to attendance areas; seeks community input

The school board is asking the community for feedback about 18 proposed changes to school attendance areas. If attendance areas are changed, some students' designated school will change and some students' bus routes will change. The proposed changes reflect [input](#) the school board gathered at 8 community engagement sessions and via an online survey it conducted last fall. The proposed changes also align with the [principles](#) the school board adopted to guide the review.

The school board is hosting two community engagement sessions April 19 and 20. An online survey will be available from April 4 to 20. This consultation is the last step in the school board's review of attendance areas which is aimed at confirming the attendance areas support the division's schools and communities. On April 27 the school board will make a decision about attendance areas. Details about the attendance review are [here](#).

Board makes minor change to policy responding to LGBTQ student needs

Prompted by the minister of education issuing these [Guidelines for Best Practices](#) in January, the school board took a second look at its existing policies and procedures responding to LGBTQ student needs. Based on this second review, the school board made very minor changes to its Inclusive Practices procedure: replacing the words *gender identity* with *gender identity minority* and including references to relevant legislation in other documents. The school board has sent the revised documents to the minister of education for his review. Recognizing the guidelines generated discussion and questions Assistant Superintendent Mark Thiesen provided a comprehensive report to the school board including a Q and A to outline Pembina Hills Public Schools response to the guidelines. Read this report [here](#).

What's new in the 2016-2017 Education plan?

The board adopted [these priorities](#) to guide the division's work next year.

Next year's [initiatives](#) include:

- contracting a project manager to produce a Career Expo; previously GROWTH Alberta coordinated this event for junior and senior high school students
- contracting a program coordinator to support Dual Credit programs in the division's high schools
- providing High School Completion Liaisons to at-risk students in the division's junior high and senior high schools
- offering specific supports to teachers who are new to Pembina Hills Public Schools
- creating up to four vice-principal positions to the division's largest schools with a goal of cultivating future principals within the school division
- hiring a communications director to implement the plan developed by the division's communications task force and to support school communications efforts

Modernizing Barrhead Comp tops school board wish list

The school board submitted its capital funding request to the provincial government. A request for \$33.92 million to renovate and right-size Barrhead Composite High School topped the school board's list.

The next board meeting is April 13, 2016 at Pibroch Colony School starting at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome.