

# **ANNUAL BOARD SELF-EVALUATION 2015-16**

Pembina Hills Regional Division No. 7

September 2016

## **AREAS FOR EMPHASIS 2015/16**

The Board developed the following priorities for itself for 2015/16:

1. Enact a Community Engagement Plan around attendance area review.
2. Advocacy with new MLAs and Alberta Education.
3. Develop a Pembina Hills communications plan which includes the Board.
4. Continue to monitor proposed Education Act and need for policy changes.
5. Be involved in teacher bargaining, as agreements expire August 31, 2016.

## **AREAS FOR EMPHASIS 2016/17**

The Board developed the following priorities for itself for the 2016/17 school year.

1. The Board will continue to monitor our declining enrolment and look for creative solutions to provide great programming for kids.
2. In order to serve the needs of every student, the Board will be learning more about the following areas: First Nations, Metis and Inuit culture, LGBTQ students, and students with complex needs.
3. Through the Alberta Distance Learning Centre, we will continue to advocate for learning opportunities for students across the province regardless of where they live or their circumstances. We will work with our school partners to build solutions for students to learn at a distance. We will focus our advocacy efforts to try and secure a longer term service agreement with Alberta Education.
4. We're excited by the signing of the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) protocol for our area and will be enacting this in our schools and communities and supporting it through policy.
5. School trustee elections will be held in October 2017: the Board will develop a video and support materials that communicate the importance of the role of a local school trustee and distribute these resources in our communities actively recruiting suitable candidates.

## CONCLUSION

The 2015-2016 school year presented a number of occasions to celebrate:

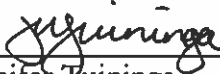
- Neerlandia Public Christian School moved into their new school building ahead of schedule.
- The modernization of Pembina North Community School was completed.
- Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) won a USD \$40,000 FIRST STEM grant to support a handful of First Nations Schools' involvement with robotics learning through FIRST Programs.
- Promoting Activity, Wellness and Success (PAWS) pilot project in Swan Hills will now be considered a program.
- Trustees led a workshop on community engagement at the Canadian School Boards Association Congress.
- The Board successfully submitted a proposed policy on internet bandwidth to the Alberta School Boards Association that will be debated this fall.
- The signing of the Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Protocol with community partners.
- New branding of our district as Pembina Hills Public Schools.

There were also opportunities for growth:

- In communication with our communities and publics.
- Engaging our communities through facilitating the process of the attendance area review.
- Connecting with other school boards across the province and country to discuss opportunities and challenges.
- Political advocacy for PHPS and what is best for students in rural Alberta.
- Working together as a Board we made some very tough decisions locally around attendance areas, bussing for choice, and recitation of the Lord's Prayer.
- The Board contributed positively and on numerous occasions to strengthening the voice of our provincial organization.

Overall, the PHPS Board has developed into a well-functioning entity over the past three years. There is open and honest communication between trustees and a shared set of values and principles that allow the Board to make tough decisions even when all members are not in agreement. We have grown tremendously as a team this last year in our interpersonal working relationships and in our ability to govern the Division and deliver an excellent education program to our students.

September 28, 2016

  
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Jennifer Tuininga  
Board Chair