



Park West School Division

Learners Today Leaders Tomorrow

PWSD TRUSTEE NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024



Earlier this year, our board initiated an information sharing project with other boards in our region. In March we learned about a unique hockey academy program in Rolling River School Division, and In April we heard how the Swan Valley School Division is using community partnerships to strengthen vocational programming. We look forward to continued collaborations.

On May 27th, trustees finalized the review of transportation catchment areas. After significant discussion and deliberation, we decided that our current catchment area maps will remain unchanged.

Finally, the board sends the graduating class of 2024 our heartfelt congratulations. We are so proud of all you have accomplished at PWSD, and we will continue to cheer for you as you take your next steps out into the world.

Wishing our staff, students, and families a fun and restful summer.

Sandy Szwaluk, Board Chair

Staff Recognition

PWSD Staff Recognition Night was held on June 6th. This year, we celebrated the long service of 49 staff members who, together, have given a whopping 870 years of service to PWSD.

We also wished a happy retirement to 11 staff members, including Donalda Wishart (pictured above), who retired with 44 years of service in the PWSD.

Thank you to the Shoal Lake Community Hall, Old School Catering, and Strathclair Air Cadet Squadron 317 Parent Sponsorship Committee for a lovely evening.

Congratulations to all!

Message From the Board Chair

This spring has been a busy and productive season for the Board of Trustees.

The Manitoba School Board Association's Annual Convention was held March 21 - 22. The majority of our board attended, taking in two packed days of professional development, networking, and discussions about the direction of education in our province. We returned to our board table with new tools in our tool box, inspired to tackle the year ahead.

Premier's Award for Excellence in Education

We are thrilled to congratulate Rebecca Okemow, teacher at Strathclair Community School, for being the recipient of the 2023 - 2024 Premier's Award for Excellence in Education.



In recognizing Rebecca, the province noted that “Okemow brings a holistic approach to enhancing the educational success and well-being of all learners as a Grade 9 to 12 guidance counsellor and teacher in a school with a predominantly Indigenous student population. As a Cree woman, she is not only an invaluable role model and resource to the school community, but also inspires students to succeed despite the intergenerational impact of residential schools and the effects of personal trauma.

Okemow promotes and supports Indigenous perspectives within and beyond the school. She gives presentations to community organizations and pre-service teachers. She is a catalyst teacher for treaty education, an active member of her division's Indigenous Education Committee and a contributing member of Manitoba Teacher's Society's Indigenous Voice and Action Standing Committee. Okemow's strong expertise combined with her gentle leadership and dedication inspires many students and the colleagues near and far” (Manitoba Backgrounder: Manitoba's Excellence in Education Awards Recipients 2023-2024).

Congratulations, Rebecca, on this well-deserved honour!

Land Acknowledgement

Park West School Division recognizes our history as an organization and as settlers to these Lands on Treaty 2 and Treaty 4, the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Metis Nation. Park West School Division respects the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and the mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities, in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees are proud community members who serve 10 wards of Park West School Division. [Trustee profiles are available on our website.](#)

Jennifer Andrew - Ward 1

Erica Lowe - Ward 2

Danielle Arran - Ward 3
Vice Chair

Sandy Szwaluk - Ward 4
Board Chair

Lorra Eastcott - Ward 5

Debby Lee - Ward 6

Patsy Chuhai - Ward 7

Taras Daneluk - Ward 8

James Roszell - Ward 9

Lisa Makwebak - Ward 10

Around the Division

- Benita Shwaluk of Shoal Lake School has been recognized with a Distinguished Teacher Award by Brandon University. Congratulations, Benita!
- PWSD was selected to participate in the Research Manitoba Science Experiential Aerial Research (SEAR) Project. Students from Birtle Collegiate, Strathclair School, Rossburn Collegiate, and Decker Colony will apply technical research skills and learn basic agronomy skills to support drone-based aerial research.
- The Grade 8 class at Major Pratt School undertook a major garden renovation project this spring. After a ton of cleaning, raking, and laying over 100 bags of mulch, the results look great (pictured below). Thank you for your hard work!



- Binscarth School has been planning regular wellness events for staff and students. Some of the “Wellness Wednesday” activities have included: Outdoor Education, Cooking/Baking, Dance, Bucket Drumming, Art, and Card Games with Guests.
- Middle Years students at Birtle Collegiate have also been focusing on wellness. Students rotated through seven stations: Mental Health - Positive Strategies, Foods, Archery, Snowshoeing, Games, and a Survival Craft.
- Hamiota Collegiate received funding from Experiences Canada to run an exchange trip with Grand Manan, New Brunswick. In March, visiting participants and families were treated to a fun and educational week. Hamiota Collegiate students visited New Brunswick for a week in April.

Quick Links

[PWSD Website](#)

[Board Meetings](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Catchment Maps](#)



Board Meetings

We encourage stakeholders to attend meetings of the Board.

Upcoming Meetings:

July: No meeting

August 29th, 2024

September 12th, 2024

Meetings are held at 6:00 PM in the board room at the PWSD Division Office located at 1126 St. Clare Street, Birtle, MB.

The public is invited to attend any public board meeting in person or by Zoom.



Ribbon Skirts



In April, students at Waywayseecappo Community School learned to sew their own ribbon skirts. Trustee Makwebak joined the students to talk about the significance of wearing a ribbon skirt.

Graduation Dates

June 24

- Rossburn Collegiate

June 25

- Birtle Collegiate
- Hamiota Collegiate
- Major Pratt School

June 26

- Shoal Lake School
- Strathclair Community School



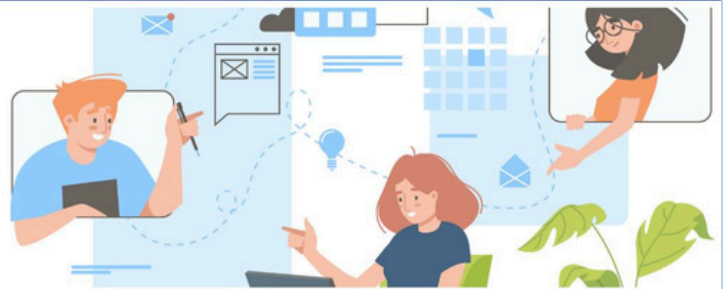
PARK WEST SCHOOL DIVISION

BOARD MEETINGS



DID YOU KNOW THAT STAKEHOLDERS ARE WELCOME AT EVERY PWSD REGULAR BOARD MEETING?

PWSD encourages all stakeholders to attend board meetings in person at the Division office in Birtle or remotely. Regular Board meetings occur on the second Thursday of each month, except for August when the meeting is on the fourth Thursday. There are no meetings in July.



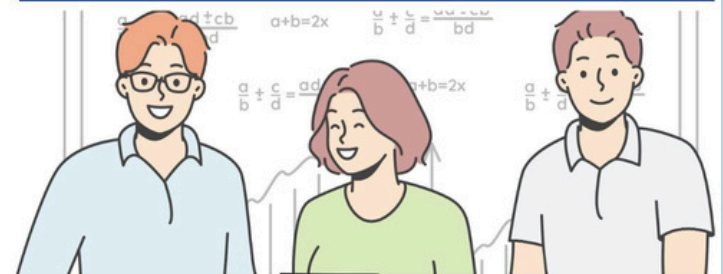
REMOTE PARTICIPATION

If you are attending the board meeting remotely please ensure that your device camera is on for the duration of the meeting and that you have identified yourself when signing into the meeting by changing your display name.



HAVE A QUESTION REGARDING THE CURRENT MEETING AND TOPICS DISCUSSED?

During the meeting, public questions will only be addressed when the Board Chair invites comments or questions from the public. All comments and questions must pertain to the current meeting agenda items.



DO YOU HAVE A TOPIC YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH TRUSTEES?

It is important to adhere to the divisional procedure AP112, which states that any issues/concerns be first raised with the teacher and/or principal. Should these discussions fail to yield a resolution, please escalate the matter in writing to the Superintendent/CEO. If the intervention by the Superintendent is not satisfactory you may request to present to the Board. Please email Jody Percival, the Executive Assistant at jpercival@pwsd.ca, outlining your request to present before the Board. Kindly include a clear description of the topic you wish to address.