



## HPSD Board of Trustees meeting highlights

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For immediate release  
Nov. 20, 2009

*HIGH PRAIRIE, AB* – High Prairie School Division’s Board of Trustees held its regular monthly Board meeting on Nov. 18, 2009 at E.G. Wahlstrom School in Slave Lake

### ***RMSS applies to host 2010 Alberta Junior High Leadership Conference***

The Board passed a motion from Trustee Lenny Richer authorizing a request from Roland Michener Secondary School in Slave Lake to submit a formal application to Alberta Association of Students' Councils and Advisors (AASCA) as the host the 2010 Alberta Junior High Leadership Conference from Oct. 15-16. The annual leadership conference is offered through AASCA, a volunteer, non-profit provincial organization with a shared interest in facilitating the development of effective student leaders for the future.

### ***Annual Education Results Report approved***

The Board passed a motion from Trustee Gary Doran to approve the Annual Education Results Report. The Annual Education Results Report (AERR) highlights the progress, accomplishments and results achieved in the past year based upon the jurisdiction education plan. The report will be posted on HPSD’s website ([www.hpsd48.ab.ca](http://www.hpsd48.ab.ca)) after Nov. 30, 2009.

### ***Audited financial statements***

The Board passed a motion by Trustee Rick Neidig to accept the 2008-2009 audited financial statements as presented by Meyers, Norris, Penny LLP.

### ***Board to present emergent issue at 2009 ASBA Fall General Meeting***

The Board passed a motion from Trustee Lenny Richer requesting that HPSD present an emergent issue for voting purposes to the provincial membership at the 2009 ASBA (Alberta School Boards Association) Fall General Meeting. HPSD is requesting the provincial government ensure that any future funding cuts to education not be directed at school boards' reserves. The Board is also requesting that any future funding cuts by the Government of Alberta be done both equitably and fairly based upon a shared reduction funding formula reflecting the Alberta Education Framework.

### ***Revised 2009-2010 budget approved***

The Board passed a motion from Trustee Karin Scholl approving the revised 2009-‘10 budget for submission to Alberta Education. Changes to the original budget – approved by the Board in June of 2009 – were required as a direct result of revised budget revenue calculations implemented by the Government of Alberta.

### ***Increased staff benefits under HPSD’s Pandemic Plan***

The Board was provided with an update regarding a decision by HPSD to implement the

Employee Assistance portion of its Pandemic Plan in conjunction with the present H1N1 pandemic. Effective Nov 1, 2009 to Dec 31, 2009, HPSD will provide increased benefits to employees experiencing influenza-like illness. The premise of Employee Assistance portion of the plan is designed to provide staff with benefits when they need them most. This is achieved by addressing the need to maintain healthy employees at work and to ensure employees who are ill do not return to work and infect other people.

#### ***International field trip approved***

The Board passed a motion from Trustee Monica Edwards granting approval to HPSD resident students registered in the Peace Academy of Virtual Education to attend an international field trip (planned by Peace Wapiti School Board) to La Quinta, California from Feb. 24 to March 3, 2010.

#### ***Proposed field trips approved in principle***

- The Board approved a motion from Trustee Gary Doran providing “Approval in Principle” for a proposed field trip by RMSS to attend a music festival in Nelson, B.C. from April 21 to 25, 2010. Approximately 42 students from the school are expected to participate.
- The Board approved a motion from Trustee Karin Scholl providing “Approval in Principle” for a proposed field trip by E.W. Pratt School to Holland from April 1 to 11, 2010.
- The Board approved a motion from Trustee Karin Scholl for an amendment to a Sept. 16, 2009 motion giving “Approval in Principal” to a proposed field trip to Ottawa Feb. 11 to 14, 2010 by Prairie River School in High Prairie. The amended field trip will now take place from April 3 to 7, 2010.

#### ***Amendment to Policy 8***

The Board approved a motion from Trustee Gary Doran amending Policy 8 (Committees of the Board) to include the addition of a Board/LSLIRC Liaison Committee. A second motion from Trustee Monica Edwards to appoint Trustee Karin Scholl, Chair Joyce Dvornek and Trustee Lenny Richer (as the alternate on the committee) as well as Superintendent Laura Poloz, Assistant Superintendent of Business Raymonde Lussier and Assistant Superintendent of Finance Paul Burrows was also approved.

#### ***Board meetings revert back to 10 a.m. start time***

The Board approved a motion from Trustee Lenny Richer for future Board meeting start times to revert back to 10 a.m.

#### ***December Board meeting***

The next HPSD Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled to take place Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009 at 10 a.m. from G.P. Vanier School in Donnelly.

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*Monthly Board meeting highlights are available on the HPSD website at [www.hpsd48.ab.ca](http://www.hpsd48.ab.ca) under “News Releases.” For additional information contact HPSD Superintendent Laura Poloz at 780-523-3337 or HPSD Communications Officer Kevin Laliberte at 780-837-6638.*

High Prairie School Division's Board of Trustees held its most recent board meeting Aug. 19, 2009, at Central Office in High Prairie.

***HPSD hires Division Counselor/School Culture Coach***

HPSD Superintendent Laura Poloz announced the addition of Chester Auger of Slave Lake to the position of Division Counselor/School Culture Coach, effective Aug. 25, 2009.

Auger is a former graduate of Roland Michener School and has been a teacher and vice-principal for the Bigstone Band School for the past 11 years.

The Superintendent also announced Kim Barker-Kay as acting principal for Prairie View

Outreach School for the 2009-'10 school year. She replaces Dan McDonald.

***Board supports request to change date of North Country Fair***

The Board passed a motion from Trustee Karin Scholl supporting a request from Kinuso School Vice-Principal Brian Hay to have the annual North Country Fair date moved ahead to July as opposed to June. The request was made in an effort to help ensure that students' remain focused on their academic studies, including final exams.

***Draft of Administrative Procedure 348 tabled until next meeting***

Trustees endorsed a motion from Board Chair Joyce Dvornek to table discussion of Administrative Procedure 348 until next month's Board meeting. The draft policy deals with guidelines and procedures in reference to the prohibited use of illegal drugs and alcohol by students within the division.

***Terms of reference for finance committee approved***

The Board approved the terms of reference in relation to the formation of a finance committee comprised of the Board of Trustees. The intent of the committee is to monitor, evaluate, advise or make recommendations on matters affecting the financial and operational control policies and practices relating to the division, including external, internal or special audits.

***Roland Michener field trip requests approved in principle***

The Board gave its approval in principle to two resubmitted requests for proposed field trips by Roland Michener School in Slave Lake; one to Italy/Greece and the other to Egypt in April of 2010. The proposed field trip to Italy and Greece is from April 2 to 10, 2010, while the Greece field trip is from April 2 to 11. No classroom time will be missed.

***E.W. Pratt field trip denied***

The Board defeated a motion to support a proposed field trip (in principle) by E.W. Pratt High School to participate in the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Victory Tour In Europe (Holland) from April 29 to May 10, 2009. The Board's decision was based upon non-compliance to HPSD field trip guidelines which stipulate that all international field trips be planned outside of class time.

The Board was fully cognizant of the educational value of HPSD students being directly involved in the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration but was not prepared to remove the requirement that the trip take place outside of class time.

"It's important to point out that we're not opposed to the trip per se," Trustee Karin Scholl explained, "it's the missed class time."

Board Chair Joyce Dvornek added "there's no question in my mind that this experience would be beneficial to students, however, it can't come at the expense of student achievement."

***Board meeting date location changed***

The Board endorsed a motion to change the location of the September 16, 2009, board meeting from Kinuso School to Central Office. The meeting commences at 10 a.m.

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