

Fort Assiniboine School  
School Council Meeting May 27, 2020  
Google Meet Online

**Principal's Report**

1) Pembina Hills Survey Results

- Unfortunately, we received only 12 parent surveys (the new format this year was email surveys as opposed to phone surveys in the past where a minimum contact of 50% of our families were contacted)
- From the 12 surveys we did receive mostly positive feedback and some valuable constructive criticism

2) School since the March 16 Closure

- The first few weeks after March 16 closure were some of the toughest times I have faced in over 25 years of teaching. We are caregivers and we all felt the emotional toll on our students, staff, and families going through the stress of Covid-19 and all the resulting cancellations, restrictions, fear of loved ones being coming infected, constant changes and the unknown.
- I am very proud of our staff. They have responded with amazing caring and resilience during this crisis. On March 30, it was announced that our support staff would be placed on temporary layoff effective April 18. They barely skipped a beat, showing excellent professionalism and spent 3 weeks cleaning, prepping, and supporting our teachers and students. Our teachers are constantly learning with this "new" way of doing school. We are not used to sitting this much J
- Last Day of School is June 26
- Teachers are in planning and discussions with parents now about the end of the year – looking at Kindergarten "grad" (drive up grad pictures) and other celebrations

3) Staffing

- Mrs. Justine Hoffman will continue to teach Grade 1&2 next year for the first 7 weeks until Mrs. Amanda Williams returns from her maternity leave
- Our office staff will be returning to work temporarily for the week of June 15-18 to print report cards and finish year end duties

#### 4) Budget

- As a result of funding reductions from Alberta Education, there will be some significant decreases in our budget. There will be a decrease in the number of Program Assistant hours next year, partially resulting from the end of PUF funding in our Early Learning programs. We will still have Program Assistants (PA) available for support in all of our K-9 classrooms, but the number of hours there is a PA in each classroom will vary according to student needs.

#### 5) CTF Programming

- A big thank you to Roxanne Cross for presenting an excellent summary of GIS (Global Information Systems) to our teachers on April 24. She has researched and prepared a binder for CTF course ideas, including contacting guest speakers to share how GIS is used in their line of work.
- Our teachers have also received additional exposure to GIS from an orientation from ESRI, including full access to their website and K-12 teaching resources at <https://k12.esri.ca/alberta/>.

## **School Council Report - May 2020**

### **Governing during the Pandemic**

As with our staff and families the board is becoming more familiar with online technology. Trustees are connecting to meetings through Google Hangouts, and we have begun livestreaming our board meetings so the media and public can attend online. Board agendas, minutes and news are all posted on the Pembina Hills website.

Since the cancellation of classes on March 15th there have been many provincial tele-conference and video conference meetings held as Alberta Education tried to standardize some of the responses across the province. Alberta Education is currently developing a school re-entry plan based on three scenarios:

1. For schools to be open as much as possible under normal conditions
2. For schools to be generally open, but with some health restrictions in place - like physical distancing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. That teacher-directed at-home learning continues

### **Budget for 2020-2021 School Year**

We are currently planning for the 2020-2021 school year. The school division budget must be submitted to Alberta Education by May 31st. With the new funding formula, and continuous changes being made by the ministry, these are very tight timelines for our schools and administration to meet. The Co-op Pool & Allocation Formula was ratified at the April 22nd Board meeting, which is the information our schools require to fill in their budget templates.

### **Fee refunds coming to families**

The school board approved the following fee refunds as a result of class cancellations and school closures due to COVID-19:

- Transportation fees – 30% of annual fees will be refunded for:
  - In Town Bus Fees
  - Transportation fees for rural students attending a requested school
- Facility rentals – Refunds will be issued for any prepayment of unused rentals
- Early Learning – Fees for typically developing children will be refunded for April and May
- Student Activity Fees:
  - If the activity has not occurred, 100% will be refunded
  - If the activity has partially occurred, refunds will be prorated
- Sales of consumables – a full refund will be issued only for items that have not been delivered or consumed

Parents do not need to request refunds; they will automatically be processed.



### Electoral ward structure

At the May 13th board meeting, trustees decided to postpone the reading of Bylaw 06-2020 until the June 24, 2020 meeting. If passed, the bylaw will amend the electoral boundaries for Pembina Hills School Division as approved by the Board of Trustees at their April 22, 2020 board meeting. Bylaw 06-2020 would repeal Bylaw 01-95 and establish that Pembina Hills School Division be comprised of six wards:

1. **Pembina Hills East – Ward 1** being the Municipal Sub-divisions numbered one (1), two (2), four (4), and five (5) of Westlock County and the Village of Clyde.
2. **Pembina Hills East – Ward 2** being the Municipal Sub-divisions numbered three (3), six (6), and seven (7) of Westlock County and the portion of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River within the boundaries of the Pembina Hills School Division.
3. **Pembina Hills East – Ward 3** being the Town of Westlock.
4. **Pembina Hills West – Ward 1** being the Municipal Sub-divisions numbered one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5), and seven (7) of the County of Barrhead.
5. **Pembina Hills West – Ward 2** being the Municipal Sub-division number six (6) of the County of Barrhead, the Town of Swan Hills, and those portions of Woodlands County and Big Lakes County within the boundaries of the Pembina Hills School Division.
6. **Pembina Hills West – Ward 3** being the Town of Barrhead.

Parties interested in presenting to the board may do so at the June 10th board meeting. Delegations are required to send a written request to the board chair with the information they would like to present, and must have an appointment on the agenda. For more information, please contact Secretary Treasurer Tracy Leigh at 780-674-8504 or [Tracy.Leigh@pembinahills.ca](mailto:Tracy.Leigh@pembinahills.ca).

### Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC)

Unfortunately, on February 27, 2020 Pembina Hills was informed that our service agreement with Alberta Education to operate ADLC will conclude after a two-year period. Funding will be reduced to \$14 million in 2020-2021 and \$7 million in 2021-2022.

In an effort to understand the decision and to ensure that the Ministry had all of the relevant information, the Pembina Hills board and system administration engaged in a dialogue with the Minister, her staff, MLA vanDijken and the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Board of Directors over the last few months. Despite ADLC's presence in the majority of schools across the province, the recommendation from CASS was to support the government's decision to terminate ADLC's Service Agreement. Pembina Hills will therefore plan to terminate the Service Agreement as per the timeline set by the Minister, as distance education services will shift to online schools. Pembina Hills plans to restructure Vista Virtual School to support students currently enrolled in our schools, and will invite partnerships with other Alberta school divisions.