



Park West School Division

# Learners Today Leaders Tomorrow

## PWSD TRUSTEE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024



### Message From the Board Chair

Welcome to the first newsletter of the PWSD Board of Trustees! As part of our commitment to improving communication and engagement, we have created this newsletter to provide you with updates on the policies, projects, and initiatives we're undertaking to support the success and well-being of our students. We also plan to feature stories that celebrate the accomplishments of our students, staff, and schools, showcasing the incredible talent and innovation that exist within our division.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Szwaluk, Board Chair

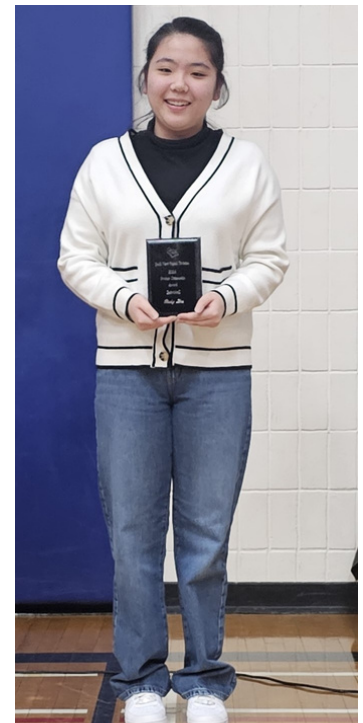
### Student Citizenship Awards

On February 22nd PWSD held our annual Student Citizenship Awards at Shoal Lake School. Over 150 people attended to celebrate a remarkable group of students from across our division.

After a very tough decision, the selection committee named Ruby Lee from Shoal Lake School (Individual category) and the Peace Makers from Major Pratt School (Group category) this year's winners.

Ruby Lee takes an active role in both her community and school as an executive member of the student council, by participating in the youth in philanthropy group, as well as volunteering at a local level. Beyond this, Ruby also wrote and published a book on immigrants dealing with racism, ethnic inclusiveness, and cultural differences to help empower younger generations to embrace their own cultures. In the words of Ruby, "a good citizen is much more than legal status but how you impact a community for the better."

*Continued, page 4...*



## Promoting The Positive

Promoting the Positive is a board initiative that started during the 2022/23 school year as a way to both inform, inspire, and remind us of our commitment to provide an environment that not only looks to achieve academic goals, but fosters humanity and creativity in our buildings. We knew we had some exceptional humans in PWSD but seeing stories from each school on a biweekly schedule has been fantastic.



In the 23/24 calendar year so far, we have learned about division wellness initiatives that have been added to support all students and staff; witnessed beautiful art projects through the Artist in the School Program from Monarch Colony School; learned about the Cultural Wheel with Hamiota Elementary School; discovered Literacy with ICT with Mrs. Obach; heard about the Shoal Lake School Student Council's Food Bank program; received an update on the Numeracy Achievement Program from Curriculum Coordinator Connie Zimmer; and learned about some fun happenings at Miniota School.

Keep watching your emails for the biweekly shares and get inspired by the amazing, heart-led programs in our schools.



## 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.

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## 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



# Budget 2024 - 2025

In December of 2023 the Board of Trustees and divisional administration began the process of drafting our 2024-2025 budget. This process involved several meetings over the course of three months where we considered feedback from school principals, divisional department heads, and the general public.

Some of the priorities we heard were important included:

- Sustaining current programs and services
- Prioritizing school-based staffing support
- Continuing our school bus replacement plan
- Responding to inflationary pressures
- Addressing ongoing staffing costs including projected new contracts for staff

## Changes in budget expenditures 2024-25 vs 2023-24

Increase in salary and benefit costs	(725,600)
Addition of 4.35 FTE teachers (various schools)	(454,000)
Addition of 1.5 FTE resource teachers/guidance counsellors (various schools)	(150,000)
Increase in Maintenance budget	(135,000)
Increase ICT budget for device replacement plan	(30,000)
Increase in building insurance	(21,000)
Return of Assistant Superintendent position	(140,000)
Return of Middle Years' vocational program	(75,000)
Nutrition Funding & Technology Enhancement Equipment Replacement	(275,400)
Misc. items (WSH \$5k, Meals for meetings \$20k, Mileage \$10k, Trustees \$5k)	(40,000)
<b>Net increase in budget expenditures</b>	<b>(2,046,000)</b>
<b>Forecast of accumulated surplus at end of 2024-25</b>	<b>226,000</b>

### Highlights:

- Several items in our current budget will be carried forward including three new school buses, the same as was purchased for this year.
- The social worker/mental health facilitator continues in 2024-2025 as does the staff wellness worker.
- The budget includes targeted staffing increases in guidance/resource and the return of the assistant superintendent position.
- The Middle Years vocational program is being reinstated after being previously eliminated.

The 2024-2025 budget was passed at the board's regular meeting held March 14th.

## Quick Links

[PWSD Website](#)

[Board Meetings](#)

[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Catchment Maps](#)



## Board Meetings

We encourage all members of the public to attend meetings of the Board.

### Upcoming Meetings:

April 11th, 2024

May 9th, 2024

June 13th, 2024

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

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



## Student Citizenship Awards (cont.)

The Peace Makers are a group of Grade 5 students who have become trained in conflict management and mediation to assist K-4 students in resolving conflicts on the playground during recess.

Constable Gabe Duquette from the local RCMP talked with this group about conflict resolution, active listening, and de-escalation tactics. The students then began to work in pairs wearing bright, visible vests to provide peer mediation on the playground. Through the volunteerism of this group the school has seen a decrease in office referrals related to incidents occurring on the playground.

Congratulations to all the students nominated and we hope to see your name as nominees again in the future.

*“So often our youth get a bad rap from society and this is a wonderful event that shows that our youth can contribute to society and make a difference.” - Trustee Roszell*

*“This truly was a rewarding night for all that were in attendance. The positive reinforcement that was sent out to everyone will last for years to come.” - Trustee Daneluk*

*“It was inspiring to see the creativity, kindness, community spirit and citizenship of the amazing students of Park West School Division.” - Trustee Andrew*

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## Did You Know?

- PWSD is home to 15 schools, including seven elementary, three high schools, and five K-12 schools, plus Waywayseecappo Adult Education and Waywayseecappo Off-Campus.
- In 2010, Waywayseecappo First Nation and PWSD entered into a unique educational partnership that continues today.
- PWSD co-founded the Park West Fiber Optic Co-op in 2016 with the goal of bringing high-speed internet to all our schools and communities. The Co-op currently includes four municipalities and First Nations and we hope to see more communities join in the future.

## Important Dates

### Spring Break

March 25-29

### Administration Day - No Classes

April 19

### Victoria Day - No Classes

May 20

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## Graduation

### June 24

- Rossburn Collegiate

### June 25

- Birtle Collegiate
- Hamiota Collegiate
- Major Pratt School

### June 26

- Shoal Lake School
- Strathclair Community School



Art by Trustee Lowe