



# ***Peace River School Division***

***Learning Together - Success for All***

## **Board of Trustees express gratitude for additional Provincial funding**

***Grimshaw, Alta.*** - At the August 22 regular meeting of the Peace River School Division's Board of Trustees, the board expressed a desire to issue a note of gratitude to Peace River MLA Dan Williams, Premier Danielle Smith, Minister of Education Demetrios Nicolaides, and Minister of Finance Nate Horner for the additional education funding the Division will receive for the upcoming school year.

On July 23 the Minister of Education, together with Danielle Smith announced that an additional \$215 million in funding would be provided to school divisions across the province. For the Peace River School Division, that meant an additional \$480,631 in funding has been allocated to the Base Funding, Rural Small Schools, and Services and Supports grants (Learning Services). The division plans to use this funding to hire additional educational assistants and other instructional supports for the 2024-2025 school year. The hiring for these positions will begin after the start of the new school year, once schools have determined their areas of greatest need.

Then, on August 14, Alberta Education announced the extension of the Mental Health in Schools Pilot program by investing \$6.7 million to ensure in-school mental health supports will continue during the 2024-2025 school year. For the PRSD, this equates to an additional \$176,327.25 in funding for the continuation of their Mental Health in Schools pilot project. The plan for the additional funds is to extend the contracts of the Division's current Student Support Workers from December to June.

"This is really, really exciting. By submitting a deficit budget this year, it shows that this funding was needed. I also think we were clearly heard regarding the Mental Health in Schools pilot program."

*Peace River School Division Ward 5 Trustee, Lori Leitch*

The board of Trustees wishes to express our gratitude to the Province for being responsive to our advocacy and supporting our concerns by providing our school division with this much-needed funding."

*Peace River School Division Board Chair and Ward 2 Trustee, Crystal Owens.*

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### **Background:**

The Peace River School Division Board of Trustees met with Peace River MLA and Minister of Mental Health and Addiction Dan Williams at Central Operations in Grimshaw on July 2. During the one-hour meeting, the Board emphasized the need for sustainable and predictable mental health funding for the entire division. The Board also advocated for the extension of the Mental Health in Schools pilot program from December 2024 to June 2025 with both Williams and at the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards earlier this year. Read more here: [Board Discusses Mental Health and Addiction with MLA.](#)

At the end of April, 2024, the Board of Trustees approved the 2024-2025 PRSD budget with a \$551,952 deficit.  
Read more here: [May Board of Trustees Meeting Highlights](#).

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