

per Medicine Hat Parents for Choice in Education
Sheldon W Johnston
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Medicine Hat, AB
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Mr. Terry Reilly, Chair
Board of Trustees
Medicine Hat Public School Division #76

April 19, 2016

Dear Mr. Reilly,

Whereas the Board of Trustees for the Edmonton Public School Board, have passes a motion, and Board Chair Mr. Michael Janz has submitted said motion to the Minister of Education, David Eggen, calling for the ministry to cease all public funding of Alberta private and charter schools;

We, the undersigned representatives of Medicine Hat Parents for Choice in Education, call upon the elected Trustees of School Division 76 to clarify their position supporting or denying support for the current funding model.

MHPCE affirms parental choice in identifying the individual needs of their children, and affirms the rights as taxpayers, for tax dollars to follow children to their chosen schools. MHPCE affirms, given the recent passage of policies contrary to the will of Medicine Hat residents, that parents retain the right of choice in their educational decision making.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MHPCE' or similar, written in a stylized, cursive manner.

Thank you for supporting the 2016 Pilot Lights Theatre Festival!

The curtain has closed on another year at the Pilot Lights Theatre Festival! It was a fantastic three days in the theatre; and I am proud to share that **MHHS DRAMA has received Best Play for the 3rd Year!** The final show of the festival, **THIS IS A PLAY**, directed by **Andrea Pearton**, was recognized last night for their professionalism and artistic efforts. In May, **Clare Spalding, Brooklyn Schnor, Christian Goodchild, Branden De Grasse, Andrea Pearton**, and **Tenneille Vertigans** will represent South Eastern Alberta at the Alberta High School Drama Festival at Red Deer College. Congratulations to our Drama Grads!

Thank you to all the teachers, administrators, and staff who supported this year's festival by entering plays, bringing classes to the theatre, and excusing students to be the audience. You might not realize how important that is to our Drama students. For them, performing live is a rare and precious time, and to share that with supporting friends is the reason behind all of what we do. In Theatre, our art lives and breathes when we are able to share it. For this, we thank you for your support!

I would also like to thank *University of Lethbridge Student Teacher*, **Mr. Graham MacBean**, for directing the Drama 9/10 production. This was Mr. MacBean's directorial debut, and I am proud of the work that he accomplished with the largest cast in the festival! Over thirty students! As well, two of his students were recognized for acting: Jon Oduor and Roan Foshaug. Congratulations, Mr. MacBean!

A special thank you to **Alexandra Middle School, Foremost School, and Brooks Composite High School**, for joining us this year! This was the first time that the Festival featured a Middle School production, and we hope to see them back in the future. For all of the schools involved, it was a great opportunity for Drama students across the South East to get together in a spirit of community! Not only was it a great chance to share their work, but also foster a sense of camaraderie and excellence as we cheered each other on. We hope that this tradition will grow. **I very much hope to see our other local High School Drama programs in Medicine Hat and Area join us for the 2017 Pilot Lights Theatre Festival next April.**

Thank you also to **Holiday Inn Express, Medicine Hat** for sponsoring the festival. All adjudicator accommodations were graciously provided for us this past week, and MHHS DRAMA and the Pilot Lights Festival would like to thank Vicki Stock and her staff for their support of High School Theatre in our city!

Finally, thank you to **Jamie Dunsdon**, the Artistic Director of Calgary's Verb Theatre, for adjudicating this year's performances. Ms. Dunsdon honored each of the plays with her insights and inspiration and we are grateful for her feedback. Our students were renewed by her encouraging words and motivated to continue their efforts. Thank you for your time and efforts and we hope to have you back in our theatre soon!

Congratulations to all Festival Participants! Keep Acting Up!

Richard Grafton

Festival Director, Pilot Lights Theatre Festival
Theatre and Dramatic Arts, Medicine Hat High School

2016 PILOT LIGHTS THEATRE FESTIVAL RESULTS for MHHS DRAMA

MALE ACTOR

- Honorable Mention – Outstanding Male Actor in a Monologue – **John Oduor** in Dystopia! The Hungry Maze Game of Divergent Death (MHHS Drama 9/10)
 - **PILOT LIGHTS AWARD for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor - Roan Foshaug in Dystopia! The Hungry Maze Game of Divergent Death (MHHS Drama 9/10)**
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TECHNICAL THEATRE

- Honorable Mention – Best Prop - nose plug prop in The Thirty-Nine Dollar Man (MHHS Drama: Jackson Moore, Stephen Wagner Directed by Teneille Vertigans)
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FEMALE ACTOR

- Honorable Mention – Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role: Moira Schultz in Don't Knock (MHHS Drama, Directed by Miki Cullihall)
 - **PILOT LIGHTS AWARD for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor – Emma Mitchell in Dying to Be Thin (MHHS Drama Directed by Timora Hardiker)**
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OTHER ACTING

- Honorable Mention – Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble – 10,000 Cigarettes: Sarah Edison, Cali Yearwood, Rhys Parks, Katrien Dykstra
 - Honorable Mention – Outstanding Professionalism - Christian Goodchild, Clare Spalding, Brooklyn Schnor, Branden De Grasse, and Andrea Pearton (MHHS Drama Directed by Andrea Pearton)
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PRODUCTION DESIGN

- Honorable Mention – Outstanding Costume Design – Mustardseed(MHHS Drama directed by Taelar Bromberg)
 - **PILOT LIGHTS AWARD for Outstanding Production Design – 10,000 Cigarettes (MHHS Drama: Directed by Sarah Edison and Cali Yearwood)**
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OUTSTANDING DIRECTING

- Honorable Mention – Outstanding Directorial Collaboration – Timora Hardiker for Dying to Be Thin (MHHS Drama)
 - **Outstanding Student Directors – 10,000 Cigarettes: Sarah Edison and Cali Yearwood, (MHHS Drama)**
 - ***RUNNER UP: 10,000 Cigarettes: Sarah Edison, Cali Yearwood, Rhys Parks, Katrien Dykstra, Roan Foshaug (MHHS Drama. Directed by Sarah Edison and Cali Yearwood)***
 - **Outstanding Production: *This is a Play* written by Daniel MacIvor, Directed by Andrea Pearton and featuring Christian Goodchild, Clare Spalding, Brooklyn Schnor and Branden De Grasse. (MHHS Drama)**
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