

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

March 14, 2017



Board's policy work continues

The Board of Trustees of Palliser Regional Schools met briefly March 14, after spending the day in a policy review workshop. The board expects to be able to share several draft policies for public feedback soon. The policy review workshop continues March 17. The next regular meeting will be March 21.

Draft policies will be shared on the Palliser website, Policy Review page at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/policy-review>

Board and Horizon Academy Institute sign agreement to create new school

The board unanimously approved an agreement with Horizon Academy Institute. A master agreement to create a new faith-based program in southwest Calgary has been signed by Palliser and Horizon Academy Institute, taking effect in August 2017.

The signing is the culmination of talks between the institute and Palliser that included a presentation to the board by HAI representatives in early February, review of the agreement and examination of the space in Currie Barracks that will house the school.

With the agreement reached, work will begin shortly to recruit a principal for the kindergarten through Grade 6 program. The new school, which hopes to cater to 300 students in the first year, will be leadership focused and offer Arabic and Islamic studies.

For the past decade, the school has offered leadership, Arabic and Islamic courses to students on weekends. The new full-time school will implement a Leader in Me program, based on Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Several Palliser elementary schools have also adopted this leadership model.

Terms set for ad hoc committee to review agreement with Master's society

The board reviewed and accepted terms of reference for a new ad hoc committee to work with a committee from Master's Academy Educational Society to review and

recommend changes to the master agreement between the two partners.

That agreement sets out the terms for Master's Academy and Master's College in Calgary to operate as alternative programs in Palliser Regional Schools.

The Palliser committee will consist of trustees Craig Whitehead and Debbie Laturus. Acting Superintendent Dr. Garry Andrews and Associate Superintendent Human Resources Ken Garinger will serve as advisors, and other members of Palliser administration will attend committee meetings as needed.

The committee's work will begin March 23. The committee is to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding any changes or additions to the master agreement by Aug. 31.

A similar committee was tasked with reviewing the Master's agreement last year, but it met only once and did not make recommendations to the board.

Admin asked to investigate offering school busing in City of Calgary

The board has asked administration to investigate the possibility of offering Palliser busing to the division's alternative programs in Calgary which currently purchase that service from private companies.

Because Palliser does not receive funding to bus students to alternative programs of choice in Calgary, the service is paid for using fees charged by Palliser's partner societies at these schools. Several of the alternative programs don't offer busing at all.

Trustee Craig Whitehead asked if it would be possible for Palliser Transportation Services to be expanded to Calgary so the societies could receive service from the division, rather than other contractors. He said the service would have to break even or make money for Palliser.

The board discussed how that possibility would include requiring a shop in Calgary to service buses, as well as additional buses, and whether the division could charge a transportation fee for providing this additional service.

Next regular meeting: March 21, 2017

*Together we will ensure learning success for all students
to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world.*