

# Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: April 9, 2024



## Learning Services Report: Literacy

The Palliser School Division has experienced remarkable growth in literacy, with an increasing number of students meeting grade-level standards annually over the past four years. Dr. Adam Browning, responsible for literacy within the Division, credits this success to the dedication and skill of our teachers. Despite ongoing debates over teaching methodologies, which can distract from educational objectives, Browning emphasizes that the key lies in providing teachers with a varied toolkit of evidence-based practices.

This year, in collaboration with the University of Lethbridge, the Division launched a research initiative aimed at pinpointing the specific needs of teachers in the literacy teaching process. The outcome has been overwhelmingly positive, yielding numerous success stories from various schools.

Additionally, literacy leaders in the Division have created a new reading assessment tool to better evaluate reading skills and devise tailored support strategies for students. This school year marked a record in offering literacy-related professional development opportunities, underscoring the Division's commitment to supporting our teachers' exemplary efforts in advancing student literacy.



## Learning Services Report: Numeracy

This year has also brought significant advancements in numeracy. The formation of a numeracy committee, comprising teachers passionate about math and numeracy, marks a pivotal step for the Division. This team is dedicated to exploring strategies that not only engage students and spark their curiosity in math but also promote a comprehensive understanding of numerical concepts and the application of math strategies in real-life scenarios.

The committee is collaborating closely with teachers and other staff to enrich educational practices, aiming to enhance students' mathematical fluency and deepen their numeracy understanding.

Professional development in numeracy has been a highlight this year, with two full days dedicated to numeracy programming in both Calgary and Lethbridge. The Division looks forward to continued collaboration and professional growth in the upcoming school year.



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## Enhancing Wellness through Scheduled Breaks

Recognizing the increasing stress and anxiety among both students and staff, the Division is introducing longer breaks during the school day. Research underscores the importance of recess and breaks for active play, social skills development, and academic performance enhancement. These pauses also offer students and staff valuable opportunities for socialization and relationship building. To support workplace wellness, staff will benefit from scheduled, unstructured time to foster connections among colleagues.

Senior Leadership has asked Division principals to incorporate a 15-minute break into the morning and afternoon schedule and a 45-minute lunch break by the 2025/2026 school year. Implementation will be supported while ensuring engagement with school families to consider the local context and community needs.



## Interim Financial Statement

The Interim Financial Statement was presented to the Board of Trustees. The approved deficit for the 2023/2024 school year was \$1.6M. The projected deficit now is \$1,547,207. The Division will continue to look for ways to reduce the deficit. See more information here: [Palliser School Division 2023/2024 Budget](#)

**The next regular Board Meeting will be on May 14, 2024**

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