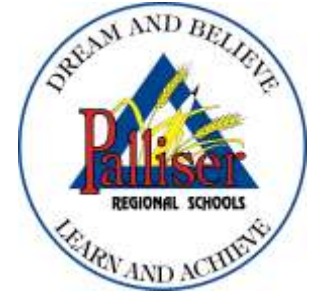


From the Chair ...

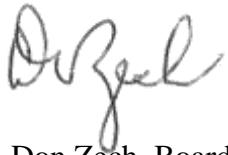
Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting held Thursday, November 25, 2010



- Barbara Gammon, Associate Superintendent (Learning Services), shared Palliser's Grade Level of Achievement results for the 2009-2010 school year. GLA represents the teacher's professional judgment of Grade 1-9 students' achievement in core subjects. Schools have been collecting Grade Level of Achievement data since the 2007-2008 school year. In Palliser, for example, 89.61 per cent of all students are achieving at grade level, a percentage comparable to the provincial rate. The data can be further broken down so jurisdictions can review how specific categories of students are faring. This includes students coded with severe disabilities and mild/moderate disabilities. For Palliser students with mild/moderate disabilities, for example, 82.17 per cent of students are at grade level, compared to 61.49 provincially in Language Arts. Among students coded with severe disabilities, 72.73 per cent are achieving at grade level, compared to 57.57 per cent provincially in Language Arts. The report includes data on the academic readiness, foundational and life skills observed in students with severe cognitive disabilities who are on individualized program plans.
- The Board revisited the matter of installation of an ATM machine at Kate Andrews High School, a proposal defeated by a tie vote November 2, 2010. The trustees passed a motion to revisit the issue, discussing how common such machines are in other schools, the expectation of visiting students that there will be easy access to a cash machine, and that many people no longer carry cash. One supporting rationale for having a cash machine at the school was that the principal would prefer to keep kids on campus during lunch hour, rather than have them heading off the grounds to get cash. Following the discussion, the board passed a motion to approve the installation of an ATM at Kate Andrews High School through a tendering process conducted by Palliser Central Office. Further, the motion stated all future requests must come from a school council and be addressed by the Superintendent's Office.
- Secretary Treasurer Terry Kirkham reported on a meeting Palliser held with bus drivers Nov. 3 at Noble Central School to share information and discuss issues. Many participants suggested the need for regional busing meetings to address specific local issues. Those regional meetings have been tentatively set for January 12, 19, 20, 26 and 27 with another meeting of drivers from all across the region anticipated at the end of the school year.
- Recent weather has caused problems on many bus routes. Palliser recently added a daily bulletin to its website at www.pallisersd.ab.ca notifying parents if any buses are not running. Additionally, the front page of the website now prominently features frequently called numbers, including an emergency line where people can leave a message to report any transportation-related emergencies at any time of the day.
- The Board accepted in principal the terms of reference for a new committee which will provide a detailed review of transportation issues. The committee will have three elected

trustees, one of whom will serve as chairperson, the superintendent and other members as the committee deems appropriate. The draft terms were adopted as a work in progress. A meeting date has not been set yet.

- Dale Backlin, Associate Superintendent (Alternative Programs & Technology) reported on the Western Canada Character Education Conference held Nov. 5-6, 2010 in Calgary. This Palliser-organized event drew 95 delegates, up from 65 last year when the inaugural conference was held. Trustees who attended said the speakers were quite worthwhile. Palliser trustees and administration plan to have a debrief about this year's conference soon before presenting suggestions to the Board about the future of the event.
- Dale Backlin also shared a proposed pairing of trustees with school councils at Palliser's Christian alternative programs at Glenmore Christian Academy (Don Zech); Heritage Christian Academy (Joe Watson); Master's Academy and College (Robert Strauss); Calgary Christian School (Colleen Deitz); and Menno Simons Christian School (Esther Willms), all in Calgary; and Brant Christian School (Jean Mrak) in Brant. The understanding is trustees would attend school council meetings when their schedule allowed, and would provide the school councils with a primary contact on the Palliser Board.
- Palliser Board Vice-Chair Colleen Deitz volunteered to serve as the chairman of the Technology Advisory Committee.
- Dale Backlin was excused from the first half of the board meeting in order to join Alberta Education's Darlene Hayes, Education Manager of Zone 6 Services, as she visited Palliser's newest school, Carmangay Outreach School, as well as Barons School, an alternative Low German Mennonite school. Dale reported the visits to the two schools went very well as the principal was able to share information about the programs and their efforts to engage parents from the Low German Mennonite community.
- The next regular meeting of the board will be held December 14, 2010.



Don Zech, Board Chair
Palliser Regional Schools