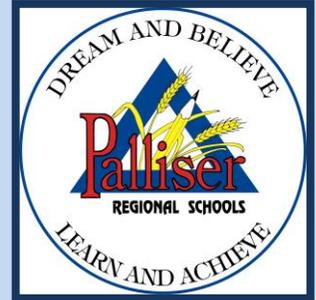


From the Chair ...

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, June 15, 2010



- The Board of Trustees held its final regular meeting of the 2009-2010 school year at Palliser Centre in Lethbridge.
- Trustees received a proposed agenda for the Opening Day celebration for Palliser staff, Friday, Aug. 27, at Vulcan's Cultural Recreational Centre. The morning event will feature long-service awards, the Wall of Fame induction ceremony and a special guest speaker. About 900 Palliser staff attend the annual celebration to kick off the new school year.
- The board received the 2010-2011 calendars and instruction hours of several schools. Although normally the calendars are approved earlier in the spring, this year many school calendars were delayed while awaiting a decision on noon-hour dismissal on Fridays for the 2010-2011 school year. That change affects Coaldale and area schools and Coalhurst, and followed voting by parents at the affected schools. After ensuring that all the schools adhere to Alberta Education and Palliser requirements for instructional hours, the board approved the remaining calendars for the fall. Those calendars are to be posted on the Palliser website.
- The board received the annual report on Palliser's transportation department from Supervisor Susan Reid. One recommendation from the report is that any future bus purchases be of 70-passenger buses. As it is, Palliser has buses of various sizes. Smaller buses tend to be less flexible for the system's needs.
- The board adopted a revised 3 Year Capital Plan to make a feasibility study of the possible modernization of County Central High School the No. 2 priority on the list. A feasibility study of a Noble Central modernization project is No. 1. If the feasibility studies are conducted, Palliser will be in a better position to move if and when money comes available for school capital projects. Meanwhile, work continues on the modernization of Picture Butte High School with work there having started this spring.
- Secretary-Treasurer Terry Kirkham provided the board an overview of school fees charged in Palliser schools. Schools charge various fees and have various fee structures. As a followup, the administration will be looking at the rationale behind the fees.
- The board voted to maintain the same school and technology access fees as last year for the 2010-2011 school year. There will be no increase in the fees being charged, and the board will continue to waive the fees for students from Grades 1-6.

- The board passed a number of motions related to this fall's school board election. Linda Poirier will serve as Palliser's returning officer, and will be working with municipalities to run the school election along side the municipal ballots. This long-standing practice makes election day a simple process for voters in both the County of Lethbridge, Vulcan County and the municipalities within Palliser's area.
- Associate Superintendent of Learning Services Barbara Gammon reported she will be working with a committee of principals in the 2010-2011 school year to discuss the impact of Alberta Education's Setting the Direction initiative. The committee will be examining the implications of this move toward a more inclusive education system.
- Barbara Gammon also reported that work continues on accessing grants and other financial resources to support the mentorship programs in Palliser schools. Barons Eureka Warner FCSS has offered some support for the mentorship programs, but more support will be needed to keep the programs viable.
- The board heard that parents who take their children to the Coaldale Before and After School Care Program are pleased with the quality of the programming and the personnel. Unfortunately, the program needs more parents to register their children on a monthly basis to ensure the program is financially viable. Many parents are using the program on a drop-in basis. The program operates out of Jennie Emery Elementary School in Coaldale.
- Palliser administrators and trustees had the opportunity to meet with school council representatives from the Calgary alternative schools and with the societies affiliated with these formerly private schools at meetings earlier this month. The Calgary school councils suggested they'd like to meet three times a year with trustees, and Palliser Vice-Chair Colleen Deitz offered to attend regular council meetings when possible at the schools. It was suggested the trustee could participate in meetings by videoconference call to reduce travel time and expense. The society representatives, meanwhile, suggest they'd like to meet in fall and spring with Palliser to discuss issues of mutual concern.
- The next regular meeting of the board will be held Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at Palliser Centre in Lethbridge.



Don Zech, Board Chair
Palliser Regional Schools