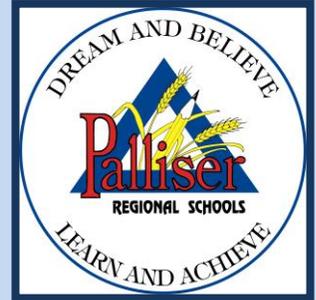


# From the Chair ...

## ***Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, January 20, 2009***



- Further review of Board Policy #16 (Recruitment and Selection of Staff) was deferred to the January 26 special meeting, at which time the Board will reviewing the entire Board Policy Handbook.
- Service area meetings are scheduled at four locations throughout the jurisdiction, with representatives of all stakeholders being coordinated by school principals. Dates are: February 2 (Calgary), February 9 (Vulcan), February 11 (Coaldale) and February 12 (Coalhurst). The purpose of these meetings will be to gather input from various stakeholder groups regarding system initiatives and Board priorities.
- The Board will be nominating four parents to represent Palliser at the Summit on Putting the Public Back in Public Education – Public Involvement in Our Schools, to be held March 13 and 14 in Edmonton. This session is being facilitated by the Alberta School Boards Association to reach consensus on more effective ways of engaging, listening to and involving the 70% of taxpayers who do not have children in school.
- On February 5, the Board Chair and interested trustees will be attending a special meeting organized by the Alberta School Boards Association to discuss the provincial initiative: Setting the Direction for Special Education.
- At their regular meeting on February 10, the Board will be establishing a committee to review Administrative Procedure #555 (Bus Transportation During Inclement Weather) in light of concerns raised following the recent heavy snowfall. At that time, administration will present proposed changes to the procedure.
- The Board recently held annual review meetings with the societies at Heritage Christian Academy and Menno Simons Christian Schools in Calgary. Although there are still areas requiring attention, the relationship between the Board and these societies remains very positive.

- At the February 10 regular meeting of the Board, a special meeting will be established to review the ASBA Transportation Task Force discussion guide in detail.
- The annual meeting with colony elders was very positive. No areas of concern were identified, and feedback on the management of colony schools was very positive.
- The Board received a financial update to December 31, 2008. No areas of concern were identified.
- Administration continues to monitor the use of Palliser VISA cards, with the goal of reducing the number of cards to what is absolutely necessary. The Board supported the process of removing cards from staff who are not diligent in reconciling their statements.
- Trustees and administration were treated to a presentation by the senior choir, which included three songs accompanied by teacher/Vice Principal Karen Braun and volunteer Rose Klassen. Enjoying the talents of this group of Grades 4-8 students was the highlight of the day!
- Lease funding for the alternative Christian programs at Brant Christian and Menno Simons Christian Schools and Heritage Christian Academy is expected to be received shortly. We await confirmation of lease funding for the three new programs at Calgary Christian School, Glenmore Christian Academy, and Master's Academy & College.
- A meeting is scheduled in Coaldale on January 26 (7:00 p.m. at PASS+) with Low German Mennonite parents to discuss the possibility of establishing an alternative LGM program in Coaldale for the 2009-10 school year.
- Guidelines for AISI Cycle 4 have been received, with a new focus on community engagement. Stakeholder input will be sought at the four service area meetings planned for early February with regard to the focus of Palliser's project application.

  
Don Zech, Board Chair  
Palliser Regional Schools