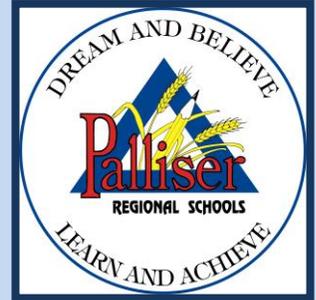


From the Chair ...

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, February 10, 2009



- Several members of the Dorothy Dalgliesh School staff demonstrated how innovative project grants provided through Board priority funding have provided increased opportunities for students.
- During the lunch break, the Board and administration staff were treated to presentations by the Grade 1 class, including a poem and song with a “penguin” them. In addition, they viewed the video created by members of the teaching staff that recently led a session at the provincial AISI conference related to character education. Feedback regarding the conference session has been extremely positive.
- Two of four service area meetings (Calgary and Vulcan) have taken place, and two others are planned for February 11 and 12. The purpose of these meetings is to gather input from stakeholders, including staff, parents and students, regarding Board budget priorities for 2009-10.
- The Board approved the 2009-10 school calendar, incorporating minor changes due to feedback received. The calendar can be viewed on the Palliser [website](#).
- A special Board meeting was established at 4:00 p.m. on March 17 to review the ASBA Transportation Task Force Discussion Guide.
- The Board approved, in principle, updates to the Board Policy Handbook. Proposed changes have been distributed to stakeholders for feedback prior to final approval by the Board.
- The Transportation Supervisor presented the annual Transportation Accountability Report, which detailed several key areas in the transportation area: Routes and Drivers, Route Times, Bus Tenders, School Bus Safety Recommendations, Required Driver Training, and Spare Buses at School Locations.
- The Board referred to the Board Audit Committee the task of developing a process for significant changes to the approved budget to ensure the Board understands and supports changes prior to implementation.
- Trustees received a report on a recent meeting of school secretaries to discuss software issues and Finance Department processes. The meeting was very positive and allowed for sharing of useful information to assist staff with common tasks, identification of professional development needs, and streamlining of centralized accounting processes to improve efficiencies. Another session is planned for March 12.

- The CTS mobile units have been relocated to new sites: the north trailer is now located at Brant Christian School and the south trailer is at Noble Central School. Due to difficulties with site preparation, the Board was advised that the trailer at Brant may need to be moved out early if there is significant thawing of the ground.
- The new Palliser display boards were available for viewing by trustees. These display boards will be used at public events to promote the jurisdiction.
- Discussions are underway with the five schools located in Calgary to determine their technology needs. Information gathered will be used to formulate a plan for balancing technology opportunities and services throughout all Palliser schools.
- Trustees were advised of a possible expansion of the Vulcan Innovation Project to allow students enrolled through the project to earn course credits. The CTS unit at County Central High School was recently used to offer an adult course, and it was highly successful.
- The Board ratified the CUPE Collective Agreement for the period September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2012.
- Trustees received an update regarding the possibility of establishing an LGM alternative program in the community of Coaldale. A recent parent meeting demonstrated strong support for establishing the program beginning in the 2009-10 school year.
- The licensing application for Palliser to operate a before- and after-school program at Jennie Emery Elementary School in Coaldale has been submitted, and it is expected to receive approval. The Boys' and Girls' Club of Lethbridge will continue to operate the program until the middle of March. A recent meeting with parents indicated strong support for Palliser acquiring control of the program, which will be available for 12 months of the year. The Board designated R.I. Baker Middle School as a second location for the summer months to accommodate the annual building maintenance program at Jennie Emery Elementary School.
- A community meeting is planned in the Town of Vulcan to discuss options for locating modular units to accommodate the Vulcan Daycare. The first modular unit has been approved, and a second unit will be requested in the next round of applications.
- The Reporting Committee has come to consensus on some key elements to be included in all Palliser report cards. Feedback regarding desired attributes is currently being received from schools, and once all feedback is received, a flexible template for report cards will be shared with school staffs.
- A report was presented regarding the recent PD Steering Committee meeting, noting proposed changes to the collaborative day format for next year, as well as the introduction of collaborative sessions for other employee groups, including school secretaries, library staff and bus drivers.


Don Zech, Board Chair
Palliser Regional Schools