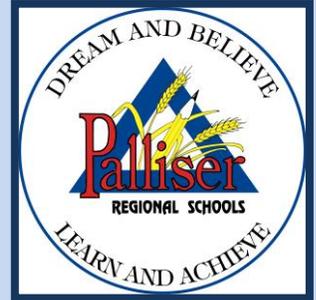




# From the Chair ...

## *Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, March 17, 2009*



- Due to an outbreak of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) in the Chinook Health Region (County of Lethbridge), Grades 7-9 students will be offered vaccinations beginning next week. Due to the urgency, where signed parent consents are not in place, the CHR will be accepting verbal consents from parents. Staff are reminded that **any students who are exhibiting persistent cough symptoms are not to be permitted to participate in sports activities**. In addition, even students who have previously been vaccinated can contract a milder version of Pertussis, often without the “whoop” in their cough, and can be highly contagious. **If any student exhibits persistent cough symptoms**, school principals should be advised and parents should be contacted and requested to make arrangements for the student to be sent home. In the event students are sent home, the school principal should advise the Chinook Health Region so they can follow up with the family.
- The Picture Butte High School boys basketball team took home the 2A Zone Championships last weekend, and will host the Provincial Championships this weekend (March 19-21). Noble Central School will host the 1A Boys Provincial Championships this weekend as well.
- A team of boys from Kate Andrews High School recently won the High School Curling Zone Championships and went on to place 5<sup>th</sup> at the provincials in Edmonton earlier this month.
- Plans continue to open a second LGM alternative program in Palliser beginning in the fall of 2009. The program will be located in the north end of Nortondale Community Centre (formerly John Davidson School) in Coaldale, and it is anticipated there will be 50 registrations at start-up in the fall. A public meeting is scheduled for the evening of April 8.
- The Board tentatively scheduled May 26 and 27 (June 9 and 10 alternate dates) for the Board/ATA Staff Picnics in Lethbridge and Calgary. Dates will be finalized once feedback is received from the ATA Local.
- The Board adopted the revised Board Policy Handbook, which will be posted to the Palliser website shortly.
- Trustees will meet with Alberta Education representatives in early April to discuss alternative programs – the past, the present and the future.
- The Board established a sub-committee to select the system nomination for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. Three first-year teachers within Palliser have been nominated by their school administrators. Information regarding the system nominee must be provided to ASBA Zone 6 by March 27.

- Four Palliser teachers have been nominated for the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.
- Palliser anxiously awaits confirmation from the Canadian Space Agency regarding the possibility of CCHS being selected as the Canadian school to host a VC with the International Space Station in September. If selected, this will be an awesome opportunity for the entire jurisdiction, and especially the 16 students who are selected to present their questions to Dr. Bob Thirsk about the ISS.
- Discussions continue with Calgary school administrators regarding technology needs at each site. Gord Smith, Director of Technology, is currently devising a plan to include these schools in a rollout/evergreening process similar to what has occurred in the geographic Palliser in the past.
- The CTS mobile unit will be moved away from Brant Christian School on Friday, March 20, and will temporarily be placed back at CCHS until the parking pad at Arrowwood School can be completed.
- Enrolment projections for 2009-10 show Palliser increasing overall by 74 students; however, it was noted that several schools in the geographic Palliser are expecting drops in enrolment. Administration cautioned that projections at several schools have traditionally been low and enrolments have actually increased when the students arrive in September.
- Following a presentation of the current communication strategy by Dan Ryder and Mary Ann Sorge, the Board supported participation in a Global TV advertising campaign for the 2009-10 school year. At the same time, the Board opted to support conservative vehicle signage, including a prominent Palliser logo.
- Donna Dalby, Director of Curriculum, presented the Curriculum Accountability Report to the Board, highlighting areas of focus for the 2009-10 school year and plans for the future to address continuous updates to provincial curricula.
- James Richards, Director of Finance, presented a revised budget for the 2008-09 school year, including updated enrolment figures and grant announcements since the budget was submitted last spring.
- As the legal host, the Board approved the 2008 Annual Report of the County of Lethbridge Community Learning Council.
- Grant Stauth, Facilities Supervisor, presented the IMR final report for 2007-08 in detail, as well as the planned expenditure report for 2008-09.
- Grant Stauth, Facilities Supervisor, and Barbara Gammon, Associate Superintendent (Learning Services), presented updated information regarding the proposed modular units to house the Vulcan Daycare program. More information will be gathered at a meeting with municipal partners next week and presented to the Board for consideration at their meeting in April.
- The Board established the preliminary budget meeting for April 8, at which time they will consider input received from the service area meetings and Administrators' Association in strategizing priorities for 2009-10.
- The next meeting of the Reporting Committee is scheduled for May 22, at which time the committee will consider feedback from school communities regarding the report card template and local reporting of achievement indicators.
- Alberta Education has provided a copy of Grade Level of Achievement analysis for the 2007-08 school year to each school principal and each school council. School principals will be facilitating a

discussion with their school council as a means of expanding an understanding of school results and opportunities and strategies for improving achievement.

- The Board approved the continuation of locally developed courses Public Presentation Leadership 15-25-35 and Learning Strategies 15 for the period September 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012. In addition, the Board approved offering of TEAM Leadership, acquired from Calgary Board of Education, for the same period.
- To facilitate the offering of a VC course, high school principals wanting to participate have agreed to one common period of instruction in the late morning. Math 31 will be offered to smaller high schools in the second semester of the 2009-10 school year using VC. Discussions continue regarding other opportunities to offer VC courses broaden program offerings across the jurisdiction.
- The AISI Cycle 4 Planning Committee will meet March 27 to consider all feedback received regarding the project focus for the next cycle.
- Palliser is currently registering families and working towards assuming programming responsibilities for the Before- and After-School Child Care Program currently operating at Jennie Emery Elementary School in Coaldale as of April 1, 2009. Staff recruitment is currently underway. The program will be offered throughout the summer, requiring a relocation for one month to R.I. Baker Middle School. Palliser has received provincial funding to support some up-front cost associated with initiating the program.
- Colleen Deitz, Vice Chair, will attend the "Closing the Gaps" FNMI Education Planning Session (ASBA) on April 2008, a working/planning event to review and implement a specific action plan and develop workable strategies.
- The Board approved the list of Christian education resources currently being used in Calgary alternative Christian programs.
- Barbara Gammon, Associate Superintendent (Learning Services), presented the Diversity Programs Accountability Report to the Board, highlighting the Hutterian colony schools, Palliser's Low German Mennonite communities, Siksika Nation students, and alternative programs.



Don Zech, Board Chair  
Palliser Regional Schools