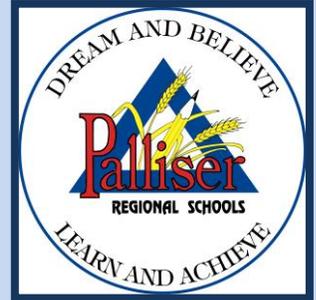


From the Chair ...

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, April 21, 2009



- A meeting of the LGM community in the Coaldale area was held in early April to provide more information regarding establishment of a new LGM Alternative Program in the Nortondale Community Centre. Student registration sessions are taking place this week.
- Board chairs and superintendents met with the Minister of Education in late March to receive information related to the Ministry Business Plan 2009-12 and the fiscal situation, and to discuss how we can better work together to improve capital planning, reduce overlap and bolster regional collaboration. As indicated in the budget announcement of April 7, the government will honour their commitment to fund salary increases for teachers; however, other grants will not be funded at the same rate. In addition, no new capital projects will be considered for funding in 2009-10.
- The Board will propose the date of May 19 to the ATA Local 19 Executive to hold a Board-Teacher Advisory Committee meeting.
- The Board/ATA Staff Picnics are confirmed for May 26 (Lethbridge) and May 27 (Calgary). It was noted that the Lethbridge event will take place at the Elks Picnic Area at Fort Whoop-up, as Pavan Park is not available.
- Proposals for modified school calendars were discussed in general. Mr. Gietz will present a summary of proposals at the May 19 Board meeting.
- Trustees were advised that if Palliser will not receive funding for all First Nations students attending Arrowwood and Milo Schools in the 2009-10 school year, we will not be able to continue to accept the unfunded students.
- On April 14, a delegation representing Palliser Regional Schools met with representatives from Alberta Education to discuss lease funding for alternative Christian programs. One concern for the province is that lease funding for the province has gone from \$9 million to \$13.5 million over the past year. Palliser remains hopeful that some lease funding will be forthcoming for these facilities, although nothing has been received to date.
- Alberta Education has provided a summary document noting that Palliser's AERR for the 2007-08 was in compliance with Alberta Education requirements.
- The Board passed a resolution supporting a comprehensive transportation review to include, but not be limited to, busing safety, bus routes and ride times, lane service, inclement weather, service delivery areas, bus replacement and maintenance policies, insurance and legal issues, and any other aspects of transportation the independent consultant deems relevant, to be initiated with public meetings to be completed by the end of June 2009. This review will include input from all

stakeholder groups, including, students, parents, bus drivers, trustees, school administrators, the Transportation Supervisor and Palliser administration.

- Jaryn Vaile, a student at CCHS, has been invited to participate in the International Student Leadership Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, in July 2009. The Board supported a resolution to provide funding in the amount of \$500 to Jaryn to assist him in attending this conference to represent Palliser.
- The Board indicated support for submission of an application for portable/modular classrooms at Jennie Emery Elementary School (first priority) and Coalhurst Elementary School (second priority).
- The Board passed a resolution supporting the registering of a plan for work to the streets at Dorothy Dalgliesh School.
- The Board authorized the Board Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary-Treasurer as signing officers for Palliser Regional Schools.
- The Vulcan Innovative Project has requested a classroom in County Central High School beginning in the fall of 2009. The Facilities Supervisor will determine options for accommodating this request, along with analyzing possibilities for accommodating meeting room space on the second floor of CCHS to address the increased need for Palliser meetings in Vulcan.
- Trustees were advised of school administrator positions to be filled, namely Vice Principal at R.I. Baker Middle School, Principal at Glenmore Christian Academy, Principal of Colony Schools, and Vice Principal at Coalhurst Elementary School.
- Recent appointments were announced effective 2009-10, including Laurie Wilson to the position of Principal at Coalhurst Elementary School, and Janice Loitz as Principal at the LGM alternative program in Coaldale.
- Administrators from Kate Andrews High School, County Central High School and Coalhurst High School will be visiting other districts and starting the process towards testing student-owned devices within the next year.
- Palliser be prioritizing technology systems that must have recovery planning, and a line in the 2009-10 budget will be directed towards creating recovery planning for key systems.
- Kevin Garinger provided a written and verbal HR Accountability Report, along with a short video presentation.
- Marian Biggins provided the Special Education Accountability Report to the Board, noting that Palliser receives funding for 237 severe needs students. The title of consulting teachers will be changing to "learning support teachers" beginning in the fall of 2009, as the role is more supportive than consultative. The Board applauded the efforts of the Student Services staff in supporting students in Palliser.
- Patti Nicol-Pharo reviewed the Family School Liaison Accountability Report to the Board. Currently there are 11 family school liaison counsellors (including 3 in Calgary) and 12 child and youth care workers serving Palliser students.
- Barbara Gammon reported that Palliser is currently developing the AISI Cycle 4 proposal based on the stakeholder feedback and directed through recommendations of the AISI Steering Committee. The umbrella theme is "Learner Engagement." Within that umbrella, teachers will be working on understanding and delivering curriculum to our diverse student population, applying assessment for learning strategies proven to engage learners. At the same time, our citizenship focus will expand to encompass the five dimensions of wellness outlined in the Alberta Education draft wellness framework. Palliser has received verbal approval from Alberta Education to carry forward unused

Cycle 3 funds for an inter-jurisdictional collaborative project, partnering with Horizon and Prairie Rose.

- Palliser has received approval for three modulares through the Creating Child Care Spaces program for placement in Vulcan. This is a great opportunity for the Vulcan community; however, the Vulcan Day Care Society has indicated they cannot support the increased utility costs if they are relocated from CCHS to the modular units. Palliser will seek an extension of the deadline to allow for more consultation time. In the meantime, a meeting of community organizations will be planned in an effort to secure funding support to assist the Vulcan Day Care Society.
- The Board approved proceeding with an application to the Child Development Branch for preschool modulares through the Creating Spaces program at Jennie Emery Elementary and Coalhurst Elementary Schools.
- Palliser has received confirmation of approval for a \$120,000 grant through the Creating Spaces program in support of 80 spaces at the Palliser Before/After School Program at Jennie Emery Elementary School in Coaldale (named "Palliser Learning & Activities for Youth" or PLAY Program). The funds are to cover start-up costs, play equipment and other child care activity resources to support the program plan focused on the physical, intellectual, fine and gross motor, and creative development of children. Palliser has also received licensing under the *Child Care Licensing Act* to operate this program.
- The Board supported Palliser Regional Schools joining Horizon School Division and Grassland School Division as a cohort partner in the Opportunity Shop project. This project, funded through the Alberta Rural Development Fund, will provide for a jurisdiction Opportunity Shop Coordinator to support at-risk students to complete high school programming while working part time. The coordinator would work with a cohort of 10 students in our LGM population and partner them with interested local employers to combine a need for employment with a desire to complete high school. The coordinator will liaise with employers, provide job coaching as needed, and provide a shuttle service between the school and job sites to remove any transportation barriers for students.
- The Board approved the participation of Palliser Regional Schools in the Early Childhood Development Mapping Project. The goal of this 5-year project is to support communities so that children enter the doors of kindergarten even better prepared for learning than they are now. The stated benefits of participating in ECD Mapping Project are that we should be able to adjust school programs to meet needs of incoming students, identify gaps and needs, raise awareness of the importance of the early years and predict how children will do in elementary school.



Don Zech, Board Chair
Palliser Regional Schools