



Palliser Regional Schools

Highlights of our Report to the Community:

*Annual Education Results Report 2016-2017
and Three-Year Education Plan 2017-2020*

Palliser Regional Schools together we will ensure learning success for all students to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world. Our mandate is to: educate all children in an equitable manner; encourage and motivate the progressive development of fundamental knowledge, skills and attitudes; provide an educational program through a partnership of school, family and community; provide quality, life skill education to all students; foster positive self-esteem in students; and create and maintain a positive, safe and supporting learning environment. Palliser's strength lies in its diversity, and we welcomed the addition this year of Horizon Elementary School in Calgary, a faith-based alternative program with a leadership focus. We are also proud of the variety of learning options we offer, and have seen significant growth in Palliser Beyond Borders, both the online and outreach program, as well as our international program.

By the numbers, 2016-2017

- 8,265 kindergarten through Grade 12 students
- 1,075 dedicated, caring employees
- 15 community schools
- 11 faith-based alternative programs
- 5 outreach high schools (5th coming soon to Calgary)
- 2 alternative programs for Low German-speaking Mennonite (LGM) students
- 1 LGM alternative program junior high inside a community school
- 1 online school, Palliser Beyond Borders
- 1 home school program
- 17 Hutterite colony schools
- 1 international student program

Community Engagement

While 2016-2017 was a year of many changes for Palliser Regional Schools, there was also a continued commitment to stay true to the core beliefs and values that have served our students so well. The Board of Trustees approved both an organizational review of the entire school division, as well as a structural review of Central Office. The goal was to provide a more welcoming work environment at Palliser but also to become more effective and efficient in providing support to our staff and in turn, our students.

Palliser trustees regularly attend school council meetings and encourage parents to participate in school council.

Palliser is active on Twitter (@PalliserSchools) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/PalliserRegionalSchools). Palliser also shares information through a You Tube Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/PalliserRegSch>). .

What our stakeholders tell us

Surveys of students, staff and parents conducted by Alberta Education in February 2017 found very high levels of satisfaction with Palliser's provision of safe and caring schools, student learning opportunities, parental involvement and other measures. Highlights include:

- 91.5% of the teachers, parents and students are satisfied with the overall quality of basic education;
- 86.9% of teachers, parents and students are satisfied that students model the characteristics of active citizenship;
- 86.3% of teachers and parents agree students are taught attitudes and behaviours that will make them successful at work when they finish school;
- 91.6% of teachers, parents and students agree that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly in school.



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For the full annual report and education plan, called our “Report to the Community”, can be downloaded at our website at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/planning-and-reporting>. There, you’ll also find annual audited financial statements, budget documents and class size reports from our schools.

Leadership and Literacy

Given the school division’s increasingly diverse student population, it was also a milestone for Palliser to host its first-ever Arabic Language Conference, with more than 100 participants from across the province

Literacy has long been a focus at Palliser Regional Schools, and that continued in 2016-2017. To support young readers and get them off to a running start at the beginning of a new school year, Palliser hired students to deliver the Summer Reading Club once again. Although reading skills are critical to every child’s success, there has been a greater recognition that the ability to write must go hand-in-hand, and the school division is providing teachers with the tools to help every student become a lifelong writer.

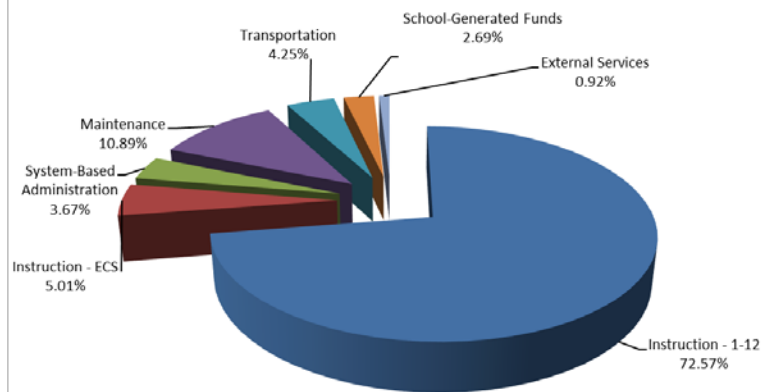
Student leadership has been another priority in Palliser, and that continued in 2016-2017. Students in Grades 4-6 and Grades 7-12 attended a third annual student leadership conference, where they heard about the positive changes other schools had made, and discussed ways they could make a difference in their own schools or larger community. More than 1,100 students took part in the two conferences, with about 40 projects realized.

Palliser also maintained its commitment to provide a quality education for rural students. Despite declining enrolment in some communities, the board provided funding for additional teaching staff in hopes that trend can be reversed. At the same time, it challenged smaller schools to be innovative in their programming in order to strengthen not only the school, but the community.

In 2016-2017, it cost \$94.5 million to serve about 8,265 students from kindergarten through Grade 12. Our biggest expense, and greatest resource, is people, with about 79.8 per cent of spending allocated to salaries and benefits. Their commitment shows in our outstanding results and student achievement.

Expenditures by Department, 2016-2017

Expenditures by Object 2017-2018	\$94,536,292	
Salaries & Benefits	\$75,435,429	79.80%
Services & Supplies	\$14,323,878	15.15%
School-Generated Funds	\$2,541,368	2.69%
All Depreciation & Interest	\$2,235,617	2.36%



We’re listening

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Many of the recommendations that came out of those two exercises have been put into effect, or are in the process of being implemented. As part of that, Palliser brought together a diverse-group of employees and board members for a workshop on psychologically healthy workplaces. That work continues, and Palliser recently offered staff training in Mental Health First Aid on how to identify and manage potential or developing mental health problems in themselves, colleagues and family members.