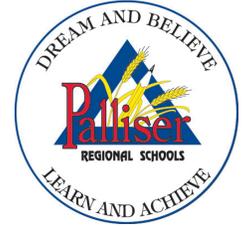


# Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting



April 8, 2014

## Noble Central choral group performs

The Board of Trustees of Palliser Regional Schools held its regular meeting at Noble Central School, Nobleford, on April 8. Noble Central serves about 230 students from early childhood services through Grade 12.

During their visit, trustees were treated to a performance by the Grade 3-4 choral group.

## Calgary Christian Secondary provides caring environment, sense of community

The Board welcomed Co-ordinating Principal of School Development Cynthia Gietz to the meeting to share an overview of data collected during a school review of Calgary Christian Secondary School. A team of Central Office administrators and visiting principals from other Palliser schools toured the site, interviewed parents, students and staff, and observed teachers in classrooms during a visit to the Calgary school Nov. 5, 2013.

As part of the review process, students, staff and parents are encouraged to also provide feedback through an online survey. The overall response rate was 78 per cent.

The school's areas of strength include teachers knowing and nurturing students through positive relationships; a sense of community and inclusion; and the strong faith-based community. Areas for potential improvement included respect (students said they could treat each other and staff with more respect); consistency in discipline; meeting students' learning needs; and student pride in the appearance of the school. The school is full and this may be reflected in the school's appearance, Gietz said.

Data collected through a school review is shared with staff who then can act on the findings.

Calgary Christian Secondary School serves about 420 students from grades 7 through 12. It is located in southwest Calgary in a separate building near Calgary Christian Elementary.

## Video production decision tabled

The Board received a request from Erv Fehr, who produces the television series "A Public Education," requesting participation next year. The division would

pay just shy of \$10,000 to share in the half-hour monthly broadcast. Palliser's Alberta Teachers' Association Local 19 is a partner, and the division had participated in the first year of the series.

The Board tabled the decision until it can be considered as part of the larger budget discussion.

## Board receives communications report

The Board received an annual accountability report on Communications in Palliser Regional Schools. Communications Officer Dawn Sugimoto presented on key communications tools and developments over the past year, including the move to new division and school websites. The new division website features hundreds of pages of new information.

Information from the website is also shared through Palliser's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/PalliserRegionalSchools](http://www.facebook.com/PalliserRegionalSchools)) and Twitter feed (@PalliserSchools).

The website provider also provided Palliser an iPhone app that gives users updates on whether Palliser buses are on time, delayed or cancelled. The bus app has been downloaded 1,950 times since launching in the fall.

A major project this year was the production of a four-page public report on Palliser's literacy project which was shared widely with stakeholders across the division. Sugimoto said the literacy project was part of the Board's investment in a marketing pilot project organized by the Alberta School Boards Association. Seven jurisdictions, including Palliser, worked with an Edmonton-based marketing firm on planning, brand building and communications.

Superintendent Kevin Gietz thanked Sugimoto for her efforts.

## Palliser continues to discuss ground maintenance with municipalities

The Board was provided an update on discussions occurring between division staff and counterparts in municipalities regarding upkeep of school grounds. Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard said Facility Services Supervisor Darren Stocker is meeting with representatives of communities to discuss the care

of the school grounds through the year and use of Palliser fields and facilities over the summer. The issue recently was raised at a Town of Vulcan council meeting.

## **Board approves revisions to Brant Christian School master agreement**

The Board reviewed a proposed master agreement between Palliser and the Brant Christian Society. The original master agreement that made Brant Christian School part of Palliser was signed in 2005. This revision includes a change to the amount of notice either party must give in order to sever the partnership. The original agreement called for six months' notice. The new agreement has an 18-month notice period. The Board approved the revised master agreement as presented. A signing ceremony with the Brant society will be planned for a later date.

## **Calendar approvals continue**

The Board reviewed school calendars for the 2014-15 school year and approved several: Brant Christian School; John Davidson School, County Central High School, Champion School and Heritage Christian Academy. The R.I. Baker Middle School calendar for 2014-15 was approved on the condition that the amount of time between classes be revised to ensure students have adequate time to transition from one class to another. School calendars are to be posted on the individual school's website.

## **Final division-wide PD day features literacy expert, Dr. David Booth**

Weather wreaked havoc on two of four of Palliser's division-wide collaboration days this year, but staff will make the most of their final shared professional development day on April 28, said Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard.

Teachers from across Palliser will meet that day in Vulcan. Librarians, career counsellors and family school liaison counsellors will also gather for collaboration time.

Earlier division-wide PD days on Oct. 28 and Dec. 2 were cancelled due to treacherous driving conditions.

As part of Palliser's literacy focus, a guest speaker and well known Canadian literacy expert will present to staff on the morning of April 28. Dr. David Booth is a Professor Emeritus of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. He will speak to Palliser teaching staff in the morning, then work with a group of school administrators in the afternoon.

## **Architectural firm selected for Noble Central modernization**

Sahuri and Partners, an architectural firm from Calgary, has been selected to provide architectural services for the modernization of Noble Central School.

A committee of Palliser officials met with representatives of Alberta Education and Alberta Infrastructure on April 2 to review submissions to Palliser's request for proposals. Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard said the committee evaluated the submissions based on stringent and detailed criteria.

Sahuri and Partners has worked on a number of school projects, including the 2012 modernization of Calgary Christian Elementary School, a project overseen and funded by the Calgary Society for Christian Education.

## **Board approves locally developed courses for use in Palliser**

The Board approved a diverse list of locally developed courses for use in Palliser schools. The courses were requested by individual schools for use in the 2014-15 school year. The courses, created by other school jurisdictions, range from paleontology and marine biology to leadership and psychology. A complete list of courses can be found in the PDF version of the April 8 meeting agenda online at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/meeting-information>

## **Next meeting, May 13 in Calgary**

The Board's next regular meeting: 10 a.m., May 13, 2014, at Calgary Christian Secondary School, 5029 26 Ave. SW, Calgary.

**Highlights, agendas and minutes can be accessed on our website at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/meeting-information>**