



# Palliser Regional Schools

## Palliser Centre

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## Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2017

### Citizen's Forum at Board Meetings

Palliser Regional Schools Board of Trustee meetings will now offer the public a greater opportunity to participate in the process.

The Board of Trustees approved guidelines for a Citizen's Forum component at every regular board meeting moving forward. The Citizen's Forum will be scheduled for 10:45 a.m. on regular board meeting days. Individuals will have to identify themselves and the organization they represent, if applicable. Comments will be limited to five minutes, and trustees will be permitted to ask questions of clarification.

Community members attending meetings will be provided with a handout outlining the guidelines, including issues not open for discussion including personnel, legal, labour or land matters. Those looking for a response from the board, must still book a spot on the agenda in advance.

### Snow Day Discussions

The Board of Trustees has asked administration to draft guidelines for possible changes to the way Palliser Regional Schools deals with inclement weather. The hope is to make that draft available to a variety of stakeholders – including parents, teachers and school bus drivers – for consultation before it comes back for further discussion.

The current policy permits only the cancellation of bus pickup or delivery during inclement weather, for either the entire division or on a route-by-route basis. Schools remain open, however, and staff are expected to report to work.

Trustee Don Boras said there are concerns that staff may be put at risk driving to school on roads deemed unsafe for bus traffic. He acknowledged the need to have someone at the school to let in students who have walked or have been dropped off, but wondered if that might be limited to a designated staff member, and perhaps someone living closest to the school.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll said sharing the draft with teachers, bus drivers and parents – the latter through school council meetings, would mean no final decisions on any possible changes would be likely until at least February.

### Financial and Other Community Reports

Trustees moved to accept a number of documents, including the 2016-2017 Audited Financial Statement, the 2017-2018 Fall Budget Update, the 2016-2017 Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and 2017-2020 Three-Year Plan Report, along with the 2016-2017 Diploma and Provincial Achievement Exam Summary. All have been, or will be, posted on the division website as soon as possible.

*Together we will ensure learning success for all students  
to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world.*

Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey noted a deficit of about \$368,000 in the Audited Financial Statement, but pointed out that figure is less than one per cent of the school division's total budget of \$94 million. Palliser has enough resources to cover that deficit, and Chair Robert Strauss said the board has recently taken steps to reduce Central Office expenses.

The Fall Budget Update provides an important follow-up on beginning of the year projections, said Durfey. Basic per pupil funding is based on enrolment as of Sept. 30 and although Palliser is down about 30 students from last year, it picked up about 70 more students than originally expected, and that means an additional \$700,000 in funding.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll said the AERR and Three Year Plan Report will now be shared with Alberta Education, which could ask for clarifications or changes to be made.

While the Diploma and Provincial Achievement Exam Summary outlines Palliser's success in a number of categories, he said that information and other relevant data will be used to determine what changes might be necessary to make improvements in other areas.

***The next regular meeting of the Palliser Regional Schools Board of Trustees is scheduled for Dec.19, 2017.***