

Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Summary of feedback

Community Conversation 2015

At the end of the Community Conversation, 161 "Tell Us About A Community Conversation 2015" forms were collected from the tables. This represents an 82.5% return rate of the 195 individuals assigned to table groups.

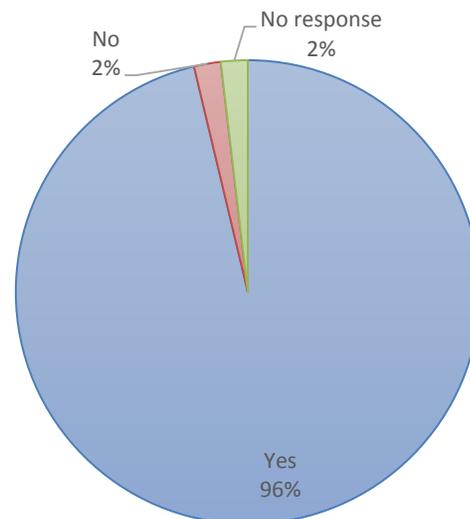
If Palliser had another meeting like this, I would recommend it to people I know.

Yes 155

No 3

No Response 3

One YES respondent said location would be a challenge for others to attend. Another qualified the response by saying YES, if the information is actually used to build/improve services.



When it comes to communications from my school or Palliser, I prefer to receive information in one of the following ways:

We asked respondents to pick their top two methods of communication. Some picked none or one, others picked more than two. We included all the feedback.

Letter home: 37

Email: 119

Text: 23

Website: 37

Other: Four individuals named other methods. They were: Blog, In Person, Letter at School, Facebook and Twitter

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

We invited respondents to provide two comments about the day. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Some provided suggestions for further strengthening the process. Here are the comments:

It was a delight to get to meet people from other schools in Palliser, to gather ideas for how to improve and to dream together about our collective vision.

Very positive! First time attending and really glad I came. Thank you. Please continue to hear the communities' voice in your role in our children's lives.

I'm glad I was able to have a say in the conversation and help make some changes and improvements.

The setting was very comfortable. It was very easy to talk to other people about the questions/comments that were brought up. I will be walking away with some really great ideas to take to my parent council/principal to help the kids in my school be more successful.

By having conversations I realized an idea that could be put in place in schools. The shuffling of prioritizing the review. Still wondering how to draw in parents.

I thought it was a great opportunity for students to have a voice in the future of their schools and districts. I would like to see more than one student from different schools (maybe a small and large school) so we have more schools/communities being represented.

The student at our table was very engaged and I would advise to have more student involvement. Maybe reduce the topics to allow deeper discussion of fewer topics. Maybe split topics up.

It is really interesting to learn and see the different things that the schools do and at the end all ends up to do great for the children. It was very beneficial as a parent.

Valuable to connect with other Palliser stakeholders and hear/understand their ideas. Important to discuss district priorities, opportunities for the future.

It was very interesting to me to hear from all different levels of people's perspectives on one issue and be able to provide my own opinions. Valuable information was shared that I would not have considered based on my position as an office admin and a parent.

Excellent conversations. Wide range of ideas to promote literacy.

The time went by very quickly! Excellent conversations with such a diverse table. Facilitator was excellent.

Very good conversation with people at our table! Students provide a great insight!

Literacy focus is most important and needs to remain a top priority.

Went by very fast and everyone was engaged in the conversation and no one was left out. All opinions mattered and made a difference to the conversation.

It was good to get together about our children. Palliser has been good to our children.

This was a very informative conversation about the importance of literacy and reading. I liked the discussion about what things we can do this summer to avoid the summer slide.

I enjoyed the platform of conversation which allowed me as a parent to see perspectives from many points of view. I look forward to seeing the ideas brought up here today implemented in the future.

Great variety of discussions. I appreciate involvement of students, teachers, parents, educational assistants. Palliser is committed to seeing transformation through data. Look forward to seeing and hearing input from discussions.

I love all the talk about books. As a person who loves to read, I find it very important. I think that student encouragement is super important. Very productive.

Everyone put in a lot of ideas, suggestions and input with all the conversations. There were many conversations on literacy and for someone who loves to read, it was amazing to hear all the ideas going towards literacy success!

Today was so much better than 2012! It felt like it ran smoother and I felt the shortened time was way better. Any time you can open conversation that helps benefit students is always a good thing.

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Table 8 conversation was incredibly insightful and was wonderful to talk to teachers, parents, students and the other staff. :-) Great learning opportunity.

Great idea to include students and invite them to attend. Timed responses/Google form was a good tool for facilitators. The conversation. The length of time was spot on. :-)

It was great to discuss things in a group with diversity from different communities/schools and positions, ie parents, admin, students, support staff. I would really like to see this information used constructively to improve. The discussions were very interesting. It was wonderful to hear from a variety of stakeholders. Very positive afternoon.

Great ideas discussed. Everyone had equal opportunity to share.

I enjoyed giving and receiving advice and talking about things that involve me. I'm glad students get to have a say as well. I also like how everything is for the students and schools.

There was good discussion today. If we can authentically capture and enrich our division with this discussion, we will take major steps beyond our already successful present.

Good to get people together and hear people's perspectives. Great to have a student's perspective.

I would recommend people I know to attend so they can share their insight. I am excited to see what gets implemented based on today's discussion.

The importance of learning assistants in the classroom.

A good way to keep students reading is not to nag them, but to let them read what they want to read, or just read something like magazines and such. Parents should be passionate with a student's learning to help improve a child's education.

There needs to be more responsibility given to the parents regarding their child's learning. There needs to be more learning assistants in the classroom.

Very diverse. Yay! Also again I will mention diversity as well.

Really enjoyed the diversity, which somehow also reinforced all our similarities :-) in regards to what we see as priorities. Great organization re questions/format/time frame etc.

Love the format and usage of time! It was great that there was such a diverse group at our table.

Very important that the teacher, student and parents get on the same page and that we have a future for our children.

It was an enlightening experience. The student input was invaluable. I felt fortunate to share my voice.

Would be great to have a panel discussion with senior members and leadership of Palliser Schools/Board. Second to this have a Q and A opportunity hosted by this leadership. Thanks for a great discussion.

I loved the diversity of people that sat at my table and the ideas that were offered up. I would love there to be more focus on student collaboration, engagement and leadership, for the students of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Remember that their voice should be most important!

Nice to bring so many diverse groups together. Really appreciated having someone from Alberta Ed here.

It was good to be able to put my thoughts into my schools. Thanks for getting me out of math. Ha ha. :-)

Very valuable to have stakeholders of all levels here. These perspectives don't mix enough. Got all perspectives and developed what's important for Palliser.

Sharing of ideas and information is invaluable. Positive future.

I really don't know which I would pick because they are all very, very important to me. This meeting was very important to me, and I'm sure to all of us, and very informative.

My time was respected and the meeting was focused and constructive. I am so grateful for the diversity in the region and the sharing today was a personal blessing.

I appreciated the chance to speak and be heard. Sharing and learning new information from others' point of view is a great experience. Thank you.

I appreciate the diverse group of people that were seated at my table. Other thoughts and ideas are awesome to hear. I like feeling like our voices matter in discussing the priorities and re-evaluating them.

Great conversations. Very inspiring.

It was very good.

Great opportunity to hear a variety of opinions from staff, parents, students, volunteers etc. Many good ideas about initiatives schools should be running and can be with parent/community help like we have.

Student involvement is very important. Good format. Good mix of stakeholders.

Good and enjoyable conversation by people focused on and interested in the same goals and vision. Afternoon well spent.

I really enjoyed meeting various stakeholders in Palliser. I appreciated hearing different experiences and viewpoints.

I found today's meeting to be extremely valuable. The broad mix of students, admin, trustees, parent groups and support/teachers created a well-rounded assessment of the needs of Palliser as anyone. Thank you!

It was great to talk to people who do not necessarily share the same viewpoint. Wonderful to have a student in our group. Very articulate. Recommend a facilitator and a conversation recorder at each table. Hard to do both!

The topics up for discussion could be more impactful if they came from a school level.

Maybe have some input from students, staff, parents and community before the meeting to create questions for discussion. Great discussion at our table.

The topics for the day should be directed from those in conversation. Issue a survey earlier and base conversation topics on responses (partially). Is once every three years enough? We talk about teacher feedback. This is our feedback.

Entertain with teachers, school council, support staff to ID some key topics prior to this. Then board ID top 5 issues to discuss at this meeting, not necessarily the top 10 list. Meet yearly with the variety of areas again, i.e. teacher, student, trustee, principal, HR, parent council.

What a fabulous day! Different ideas from different perspectives!

We need more time to discuss these questions. We need to have more of these types of conversations.

Great to hear from various community members, all views.

We need to do this with more students. Student ideas are fabulous! We need to spend more time on question at 2:05 -- how to build more success. (Do first two as a survey.)

Very informative. Got to hear others' thoughts and opinions. Would want to do this again.

Great discussions. Great seeing the different view from all that were at the table.

Was a great conversation. Was a great experience to attend.

This exercise would be very valuable to have with students. Sometimes we forget how much they can teach us. These types of conversation require more time. :-)

Very nice to get together for school conversations. Sharing concerns with others.

Neat to speak to other stakeholders and hear more about schools in Palliser. Awesome to talk about literacy and hear about good things happening. Brainstorming was effectively led.

Good interactions with others. Enjoyed hearing what other schools are doing.

Interesting meeting. Getting to know the people. Was impressed with the questions asked.

Focusing on student success and working together.

Was good to voice my opinion about Palliser and what can be done in schools. As a student, it was good to know the care and support that is put in to making my education better.

I enjoyed being able to express ways to improve Palliser and express my opinions. I felt as though the discussion was meaningful and productive.

Great to connect with other stakeholders. Helps build a sense of community and oneness.

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Really positive conversations. Would have been helpful if questions were a bit more clear.

I liked the diversity of the tables (great mix of minds). Very well organized and concise.

Improve reading and making it fun.

Interesting ideas to questions (increase awareness of ways to solve issues). Enjoyed opportunity to have a say in the direction of Palliser Schools!

Everybody is passionate and loves students. Together is better.

It was terrific to have a variety of different viewpoints to connect with and build upon. Having students at the table is invaluable. Well organized day!!

It was great to connect with the wider Palliser family and feel their support and like mindedness. I walk away with great appreciation for the effort and planning that is put toward educating my kids and create an environment for them to thrive.

I felt tables were too close together and it was distracting to hear my table's comments. Better snacks/beverages.

Focused, simple, informative, stimulating convo and great people. Don't wait three years for the next one.

Enjoyed all the different comments from various stakeholders. The "time clock" was great to keep conversation on schedule.

I would have liked to see more students at the tables. Thank you for not overloading us with questions. Three was enough.

I liked talking about the reading activities for the summer. I think classes should be smaller. More help in classes. I think classes should be divided into 1) smart and likes learning 2) the people in the middle 3) the people who need more help.

With today's technology, believe programs like this can be held via video conferencing rather than have so many people commute. Tough time of year to host session for students to take this time away from school. Enjoyed learning how different schools work.

It's hard to think up new ideas. Everything has a cost and Palliser has a declining budget. It was nice to sit and speak openly with all sides of our school community.

Great to have students and parents in on the conversation. Nice to have different schools represented and hear from them.

It's fantastic to know Palliser is investing in the development of the community, family, children and schools. Thanks.

Questions 1 and 2 seemed so similar. It is natural to talk about what you might change as you are evaluating points. Our discussions felt a bit dry. I think our table had such a wide spread, it was hard to relate.

I think it's important to gain diverse perspectives regarding where our focus should go from parents, students and teachers etc. Palliser should pursue the development of critical thinkers, rather than test-takers because we are the future of society.

Meet new people at the table and listening to what good ideas everybody else has to say and try to help our kids in school.

I enjoyed the variety of comments coming from contexts different than my own. The student input was critical and so valuable!

Good diversity of people at the table. (I would encourage two students per table!) As much as we are all different, we have a common goal of success for all students.

I really enjoyed hearing the different perspectives of different types of people and some new ideas. The variety of people and student involvement was appreciated.

Enjoying hearing different concerns that I didn't think about. Quality conversations. Great input.

Appreciate the structure so time was used beneficially. Appreciate Palliser's desire to always seek ways to improve and soliciting the input of the stakeholder (teachers, parents, students) in the process.

Was good to pool ideas and comments from many different people/students/teachers/parents.

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Education is a community effort. Also that there needs to be more partners in the classrooms ex. a support staff in every class room. This is not a luxury but a necessity!

Great mixing of people at each table (many perspectives). Time lines and Google doc well set up.

Good to be able to have input, also some great "idea exchange."

Good mix of people.

Great discussion around the table, exchange of ideas and feedback.

I really enjoy having a variety of people at the table (especially student perspectives). I like the format of the conversation. I would like time to share with another group.

Awesome venue for discussion. Appreciate the mix of participants in our group. Pacing was excellent as was the facilitation.

Good communication over a variety of important topics and from a range of stakeholders.

I think it's great that there are so many diverse perspectives that are willing to give insight. Don't pick a day so near to finals!!!

Thanks for opening my eyes to summer slide.

I've never been here before and I am glad I came.

Great to have an opportunity to hear what the needs are in our communities and what's working. Nice to have open conversation.

Enjoyed it very much and would like to see this continue.

Very positive to have such a diverse group of people around the table. This leads to much clearer communication. Liked all the ideas for summer slide.

Very informative. Great ideas. Wonderful meeting coworkers.

Seeing the dialogue questions ahead of time would have helped me to be more prepared. I really appreciated our table conversation. Nathan did a great job facilitating.

I appreciated the day and the conversation we had. It's great to hear different perspectives. Thank you!

Wonderful opportunity to provide opinions to Palliser. Great forum to allow feedback. Structured and on time.

Great conversations. Meaningful dialogue about how to improve an already great system.

Enjoyed the diversity of perspectives in our discussion group.

It was a lot different than I thought. It was a great afternoon to learn more of what Palliser is doing and that we really can be involved to help. Thanks for all you do. :-)

Good chance to network with other professionals. Sharing of information.

Well organized. Got as much feedback that I can use for my family/children as feedback I shared towards Palliser.

I'm so thankful for Palliser and their collaborative environment. Looking forward to sharing this information with our board.

Great to hear different perspectives. Many great ideas.

I thought that the meeting today was very informational and I'm glad I was able to give feedback on work being done in schools. Thanks!

It was a wonderful experience to hear all the information about improvements being made and steps being taken to improve our schools.

Interesting to hear all the feedback from a variety of perspectives. It would be great to have this gathering more often.

It is great to hear others — their ideas, their dedication. Enjoy hearing students' input. The diversity of participants involved was great too!

It was great to hear from others schools and people in different roles. We have a very diverse school division! Thank you for facilitating this conversation!

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Great to hear what is truly happening in individual schools; the needs, wants, failures and successes. The diversity of attendees and the opportunity to hear others opinions and input.

You have to speak if you want to be heard - it's a good opportunity. The meeting is well organized and facilitated in small groups.

Always good to hear new ideas to make Palliser the best school division we can. Palliser is dedicated to do its best for our school division.

Enjoyed the diversity of perspectives in our discussion group.

Enjoyed listening to experienced teachers and hearing their ideas.

I think schools should take reading more seriously. We should have a small library in each class and give students more chances to just read. I also think schools should make it a goal to prevent bullying.

Very nice to have students involved in this process.

Positive. Worthwhile.

Good cross-section at each table. There was good focus and helpful to be structure.

Vision for a mission. Reading is a win-win.

I enjoyed the opportunity to share ideas. I especially loved hearing from our student. Great ideas! I'm taking away some great thoughts on how to be better at my job.

There needs to be health policy. There needs to be more talk to students.

Great sharing of new possibilities i.e. brainstorming. Talk about areas in their school that are struggling or not working well.

It's great to be able to have a voice as parents. This is a great way to allow change to occur.

Really appreciated the questions parents and classroom teachers put forward. Their honesty much appreciated!

Enjoyed the open opportunity to express concerns and successes. Such a great opportunity to hear from others (parents, admin, students) and hear from their perspective.

It was good to have my opinion heard.

I really enjoyed meeting people from different cultures and them having similar thoughts to mine. We are all striving for success.

I think it is an afternoon well spent with more students in attendance.

So good to engage with schools of different cultures, processes and sizes. This is the one time we can share with students all the way to administration.

The discussion was for more valuable than listening to speakers.

Super conversation! Really loved the student input! (Perspectives)

It was good to hear what happens in other schools. Glad to hear student input.

Great facilitator. I felt heard and well represented. Happy with the healthy snacks today :-)

Thank you!
Wonderful day. Members at table want this more often. Parent comment: "Can't understand why people wouldn't want to come."

A great mix of people to discuss ideas. Good ideas to take home.

We had a good mix of people at our table. I would like to see more than one student at each table.

It was great to hear from the different stakeholders at the table (parents, students, staff). The timing and flow was spot on.

Very positive experience, lots of great ideas to take back to our school.