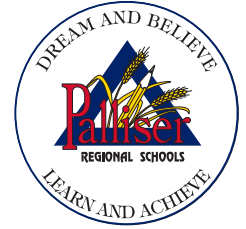


Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

October 18, 2016



Special meeting scheduled Nov. 3 for receiving organizational review report

The board has set a special board meeting for Nov. 3 at Central Office in Lethbridge to receive the organizational review report.

Acting Superintendent Dr. Garry Andrews said he contacted the review panel and Nov. 3 is the earliest both would be available to meet with the board.

Dr. Terence Weninger and Dr. Kelly Williams-Whitt were selected this spring to conduct an independent review, to be completed no later than Oct. 31.

The meeting will follow the format of a regular board meeting, convening at 9 a.m. with an in-camera portion. The start time for the public portion of the meeting has yet to be determined.

The board also discussed the possibility of holding public meetings after the executive summary of the review is made public. Trustees set aside Dec. 12 and 13 for potential stakeholder meetings.

Policy review in the plans this winter

The board will continue planning for a comprehensive review of its policies. Trustees discussed again a desire to systematically review policy and related procedures, starting with any policies the review report may identify as priorities. Trustees discussed how to ensure the policy review process gives staff, school councils and the public opportunity to provide input.

The matter will be brought back to the board at its regular meeting Nov. 24. By then, the board will know if the review panel identified any particular policies as needing review.

Agenda format change coming

The format of board agendas will change for the Nov. 24 meeting, to streamline meetings and give trustees more time to discuss and deliberate issues.

The major change will be that information-only items, requiring no action or discussion, will be accepted with a single motion. If a trustee wants clarification or discussion on any agenda item identified as information-only, he/she can have the item changed to a discussion item before the board adopts its meeting agenda.

The board discussed setting aside time for a public question period and other presentations, as needed.

Acting Superintendent Dr. Garry Andrews said the agenda format can be tweaked once trustees experience the new process.

The agendas for board meetings are posted on the website at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/meeting-information>. Minutes are also posted there once they are adopted by the board.

Academic results continue to be strong

Palliser's academic results continue to be higher than provincial average in nearly every subject of Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests and diploma examinations.

Associate Superintendent Education Services Pat Rivard said the results demonstrate that Palliser's literacy program is supporting students in all subject areas, not just language arts.

In PATs, Palliser students achieving the acceptable standard exceeded the provincial percentage in 10 of 12 exam areas. The two exceptions were both Knowledge and Employability programs, an alternative program of study for Grade 9 students who have difficulty in one or more subject areas.

Examples of outstanding PAT results include:

- 92.2% of Palliser students achieved the acceptable standard in Grade 6 English Language Arts, compared to 82.9% provincially. Of those Grade 6 English students, more than one in three, or 34.8%, achieved the provincial standard of excellence, compared to 20.4% provincially.
- 86.6% of Grade 6 Science students in Palliser achieved the acceptable standard, compared to 78% provincially; 38.3% of Palliser students achieved the standard of excellence, compared to 27.1% provincially.
- 82.9% of Palliser students achieved the acceptable standard in Grade 6 Math with 25.4% achieving the standard of excellence. That compares to 72.2% and 14%, respectively, across Alberta.

Palliser students achieving the acceptable standard exceeded the provincial percentage in seven of 10 diploma exam areas. Of note:

- 90.8% of Palliser students achieved the acceptable standard in Social Studies 30-1, compared to 84.9% provincially. In Social 30-2, 89.8% of Palliser students

achieved the acceptable standard, compared to 81.1% across Alberta.

- 89% of Palliser students achieved the acceptable standard in English 30-1, compared to 86.8% in Alberta; 96.2% of Palliser students writing the English 30-2 diploma exam achieved the acceptable standard, compared to 89.1% provincially.

Rivard pointed out Palliser's participation rate in diploma exams continues to be very high as teachers encourage students to challenge themselves in 30-1 level courses, rather than 30-2 courses. The choice helps students keep their options open for post-secondary study.

Acting Superintendent Dr. Garry Andrews said the results overall are very strong, an indication of exceptional work occurring across Palliser.

Audit plan approved; results Nov. 24

The board approved the 2015-2016 audit plan, as presented by KPMG to the audit committee. Auditors from the firm will be at Central Office conducting audit work in October. As part of the audit, the firm plans to review management of school-generated funds at three schools across the division. The audit committee also discussed personal use of Palliser-owned vehicles. Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Braun said he would be meeting with a tax expert before recommending a policy and/or administrative procedure on the matter.

The audit committee will receive the 2015-2016 audit report on Nov. 23, with the report being presented to the full board at the Nov. 24 meeting.

Palliser, CUPE Local 290 ratify deal

The Board of Trustees ratified a memorandum of agreement with CUPE Local 290, representing school caretakers. Once the agreement is signed by both parties, it will be posted on Palliser's website.

Acting Superintendent contract extended

The board amended its contract with Acting Superintendent Dr. Garry Andrews. The terms were not discussed publicly, but Andrews said later the change made his contract flexible and fluid, essentially month to month. Originally, his contract was set to end Oct. 31, the deadline for completion of the organizational review.

Board hopes new school space part of Coaldale's annexation plans

Palliser's board passed a motion to request that the Town of Coaldale set aside land for a future elementary school development. The motion followed receipt of a Town of Coaldale notice of intent to annex. The notice

states the town would like to annex 1,440 acres from Lethbridge County for expansion along the west side of town on both north and south sides of Highway 3.

Palliser requests modulars for CES

Palliser's annual request to the province for modular classrooms will seek two modulars for Coalhurst Elementary School.

The request for the 2017-2018 school year has to be submitted to the province by Nov. 1.

Last year, Palliser unsuccessfully requested modular for both Barons School and Coalhurst Elementary. Since then, Barons School's utilization rate dropped to 60 per cent. Coalhurst Elementary's utilization rate is 83 per cent. The utilization rate is a measure of student enrolment and physical instructional space.

Enrolment up, especially in ECS

Palliser's enrolment for the 2016-2017 school year stood at 8,211 students from early childhood services through Grade 12, up slightly from last year and up 0.7 per cent from budgeted projections.

Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Braun said the increase in enrolment is in kindergarten, where Palliser has 720 young learners. In Grades 1-12, Palliser has 7,491 students, down slightly from a projection of 7,529.

Palliser considers new language for securing students from harm

The board discussed a draft administrative procedure that would change the language used about school safety.

Draft AP 129, Safety Response to Critical Incidents, would address overuse of the term "lockdown," by ensuring that word was only used in the event of serious incident or threat inside a school. Two new terms would be introduced. The first, "hold and secure," would refer to an incident occurring outside the school that might pose a threat to students and staff. An example would include an armed robbery in the neighbourhood near the school with the armed individual still at large. In such a situation, students would be kept indoors and the school's exterior doors would be locked.

The second term, "shelter in place," would reflect environmental conditions outside the school, such as extreme weather, a chemical spill or power outage. In such a situation, the students would be kept safe inside the school with exterior doors closed. Shelter in place could refer to a blizzard in which it's safer to keep students at school rather than dismiss them early, sending them into the elements when there may not be an adult at home.

Associate Superintendent Education Services Pat Rivard said the three levels of security responses would help

prevent overuse of the term “lockdown,” reserving that for the most serious incidents. This would help ensure students take lockdown calls seriously and would reduce anxiety about other safety scenarios.

He said other jurisdictions in southern Alberta are moving to this common language.

The AP is still in draft format as additional feedback is collected from stakeholders.

Student leadership conference Nov. 9

Associate Superintendent Education Services Pat Rivard invited trustees to Palliser’s high school Student Leadership Conference. The event is being planned by a committee of student leaders from across Palliser who will be leading breakout sessions on leadership for their peers. This year’s conference theme is Discover U: Find the Strength in Us. The event will feature keynote speaker Phil Boyte. Boyte led pre-conference activities for last year’s DiscoverU event, teaching a core group of Palliser student leaders engagement strategies. He founded [Learning for Living](#) to promote caring school cultures and student leadership.

This year’s conference will be held at the University of Lethbridge Nov. 9. It is open to students from Grades 7 through 12. Students must pre-register at their schools. Parents are welcome to attend.

Rivard said an invitation has been extended to schools across southern Alberta. Foothills School Division, in the High River area, has expressed interest in having students attend.



Find the Strength in Us
DISCOVER U



PALLISER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 9, 2016 • UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE
Featuring Keynote Speaker Phil Boyte

TO REGISTER, TALK TO YOUR LEAD TEACHER

This event is made possible thanks to our community-minded supporters.



The board’s next regular meeting is scheduled for Nov. 24.

