



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Timeline related to the organizational review process

January 12, 2016

The Board received a request from the Superintendent asking for an operational review of the Palliser school system. In response, the board passed a motion to request the Minister of Education to provide oversight to an independent, external operational review of the Palliser Regional School system. You can read Gietz's letter [here](#).

January 28, 2016

Five of six trustees went to Edmonton to meet with Alberta Education officials, led by Deputy Minister Lorna Rosen, who informed Palliser the operation review was the sole responsibility of the local board. There would be no ministerial oversight to the review process.

February 9, 2016

At its regular board meeting, the board passed a resolution to have a three-member panel conduct an independent, external operational review. The board also passed a motion to establish a committee of three trustees (Robert Strauss, Debbie Laturus and Craig Whitehead) with administrative support from Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Braun to recommend a three-member panel to conduct the review. The motion stated four school council chairs would be consulted in the process.

March 10, 2016

At a special meeting, the board accepted an offer from Alberta Education to provide a representative to provide guidance and direction on the implementation and use of appropriate policy and protocol to support the work of the operational review committee. This meant the Secretary Treasurer did not have to provide administrative support, keeping all Palliser staff at arm's length from the review panel selection process.

March 15, 2016

At the board's regular March meeting, Robert Strauss provided a verbal report on the selection committee's work where he identified himself as spokesperson for the selection committee. He said the committee had narrowed its selection to three candidates.

March 29, 2016

The board accepted terms of reference for the organizational review panel and voted to offer contracts to the three panel members as recommended by the selection committee. The motion stated information about the processes and the panel member's biographies would be posted on the website once contracts were in place. The board also established a budget of \$136,000 plus expenses for the operational review.

March 31, 2016

An emergency meeting of the board was called to rescind motions passed 48 hours earlier after Alberta Education encouraged Palliser to consult legal counsel about limits to contracts signed without a public procurement process. The board rescinded two motions – to offer contracts to the three panel members and that a budget of \$136,000 plus expenses be approved for the operational review.

The board then passed a motion that the three members of the external review panel be approached to resubmit their proposals so the total cost of the review would not exceed \$74,999.99, including GST and expenses, in order to comply with trade agreements. The three reviewers were asked to resubmit proposals by 4 p.m. April 4. The meeting was adjourned to 10 a.m. April 5.

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

April 5, 2016

At a special meeting, the board passed a motion to accept the resubmitted proposals from the three panel members, subject to review by Palliser legal counsel and the acceptance of formal contracts to be drawn up by legal counsel, so as to be in compliance with relevant trade agreements. The meeting was adjourned to April 7.

April 7, 2016

At a special meeting, the board passed a motion approving a budget of \$74,500 including expenses and GST for the review.

April 11, 2016

The organization review was on the agenda of this special meeting but was not discussed due to other issues.

April 14, 2016

The organizational review was on the agenda of this special meeting. Trustee Strauss made a motion to remove “points of clarification” about the review that he’d introduced at a meeting March 29th. That was carried.

April 19, 2016

The regular monthly meeting was held. The organizational review was not on the agenda because no formal contracts had yet been completed by legal counsel.

April 28, 2016

A special meeting was held in Vulcan. A motion was passed to authorize the Board Chair to provide the reviewed, revised consultant service contracts for the organizational review to the consultants and for the Board Chair and Secretary Treasurer to sign on behalf of the board once the consultants’ agreement was confirmed.

May 10, 2016

This was the board’s first opportunity to hold a special meeting that could be attended by all trustees to discuss the fact that the consultants received the revised contracts and declined to enter into contracts with Palliser to conduct the operational review. The consultants did not provide reasons for their decision. The board passed a resolution to designate Trustee Strauss to engage the three panel members, as discussed in-camera, and find out why they chose not to sign the contracts to undertake the operational review.

May 17, 2016

At a special meeting, the board instructed Palliser legal counsel to work with two of the original three consultants to prepare final agreements for board review and approval at the May 24th regular meeting with a goal of proceeding with the organizational review.

May 24, 2016

At its regular meeting, the board approved the agreements received from Palliser legal counsel. The agreements were signed by Palliser representatives and forwarded to the two individuals selected to conduct the review. One of the two was signed and returned May 24.

May 25, 2016

The second of two contracts was signed and returned to Palliser. The identities and biographies of the reviewers was made public along with terms of reference for their work.

May 27, 2016

The review panel of Dr. Terence Weninger and Dr. Kelly Williams-Whitt release additional details about the review process, including contact information. The information is posted on Palliser’s website.

November 3, 2016

The Board of Trustees convened special board meeting to receive results of the review from Dr. Weninger and Dr. Williams-Whitt. The [executive summary](#) and 21 recommendations are posted to the website immediately following a board motion authorizing the document being shared.

November 8, 2016

The Board of Trustees held a special meeting to discuss the review report and the recommendations. It passes a motion to accept in principle the report and all 21 recommendations and “immediately initiate a process to address the report and its recommendations.”

November 24, 2016

At its regular monthly board meeting, the board passed a motion to release the full report of the organizational review. The [document](#) was redacted to comply with Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation. The board issued a [request for proposal](#) to obtain facilitator services. The successful candidate will oversee the co-ordination and implementation of the 21 recommendations through a collaborative approach that includes the facilitator, the board and administration. Sealed proposals must be received by 2 p.m., Dec. 12.

January 10, 2017

The board held a special meeting, passing a motion to accept a proposal from Dr. Terence Weninger to facilitate a series of workshops on governance issues raised in the organizational review.