



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting/Organizational Meeting

Monday, Oct. 30, 2017

Organizational Meeting

The organization meeting, leading up to the new board's first regular meeting since the election, saw some consistency despite four of six trustees being sworn in for the first time.

Incumbent Robert Strauss (Ward 2, Subdivision 2) will once again serve as Chair, while incumbent Debbie Laternus (Ward 1, Subdivision 2) will return as Vice-Chair. Newcomer Kristine Cassie (Ward 1, Subdivision 3) will serve as Alternate Vice-Chair. All positions are for a one-year term.

Also sworn in were first-time trustees Lorelei Bexte (Ward 2, Subdivision 1), Don Boras (Ward 1, Subdivision 4) and Sharon Rutledge (Ward 1, Subdivision 1).

The organizational meeting saw trustees named to various external and internal committees. The regular board meeting was the first for Dave Driscoll since he assumed duties as Superintendent of Schools on Oct. 1.

The board will thank former trustees Colleen Dietz, Craig Whitehead, Esther Willms and Don Zech for their service to Palliser at a later luncheon.

FNMI Recognition at board meetings/events

The Board of Trustees approved a motion to recognize the First Nations, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) community with a prepared statement before every board meeting and significant public event.

Trustees heard a statement of declaration had been reviewed by the board in the summer and discussion was open as far as the wording. No changes were made to the statement, which reads: Palliser Regional Schools would like to acknowledge the traditional territories and oral practices of Blackfoot Nations, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. We also acknowledge the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Metis Nation, and all people who make their homes in the regions we serve.

Citizen's Forum at Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees approved a motion to have Palliser administration prepare draft guidelines for a citizen's forum at board meetings and bring it back for further discussion.

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

Chair Robert Strauss said the idea was for a standing agenda item to allow the public greater participation at board meetings. Trustees discussed the possibilities of a short period for the public to provide comments or raise questions, without having to book a spot on the agenda in advance.

Guidelines would be prepared and made available at each meeting to outline permissible areas of discussion.

Trustee Don Boras hoped the board would also encourage Palliser students to sit in on meetings and expose them to the democratic process to not only educate them, but also perhaps inspire them to run for political office in the future.

The next regular meeting of the Palliser Regional Schools Board of Trustees is scheduled for Nov. 28, 2017.