

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

February 7, 2017



Additional regular board meetings added for February

At a special meeting Jan. 31, the board passed a motion to hold three additional regular board meetings in February. In addition to the regular monthly meeting already scheduled for Feb. 21, the board planned meetings for Feb. 7, Feb. 14 and Feb. 28. At the Feb. 7th meeting, the board voted to cancel Feb. 14. The board said it will revisit the need for weekly meetings later in February.

Palliser board approves in principle new faith-based school

The board unanimously accepted in principle a proposal for a new faith-based program in southwest Calgary, pending a contract review and inspection of the building.

The motion comes a week after a special board meeting attended by representatives of [Horizon Academy Institute](#), at which they shared their mission and vision for a school offering both Islamic and Arabic studies, as well as an emphasis on leadership.

Since 2006, the Academy has offered classes on weekends. It was more recently approved by Alberta Education to offer a for-credit high school course on Arabic language and culture.

Its proposal to Palliser Regional Schools will create a kindergarten through Grade 6 school in space it intends to lease, suitable for about 300 students.

The proposal would see the school begin operations as a faith-based alternative program within Palliser starting in August 2017.

Acting Superintendent Dr. Garry Andrews said the new program fits well within Palliser's framework and the division's support for diversity within the public school system. The school's mission and vision with its emphasis on academic performance and leadership are also aligned with Palliser priorities. As an alternative program within Palliser, the students would receive the regular per-pupil instruction grant, and Palliser would benefit from increased economies of scale, Andrews said.

The institute supports leadership development not only of its students, but of community members as well.

"Horizon Academy Institute provides programs and

services in education and leadership development through the universal human values and modern best educational practices," reads the academy mission statement. "We measure our success through our ability to provide a culture of effectiveness, innovation and trust while building a new generation of competent, knowledgeable and value-driven leaders."

The new school would adopt FranklinCovey's The Leader In Me program, already found in several of Palliser's elementary schools.

The agreement will come back to the board once the necessary reviews are completed for further consideration. A board motion will be required to finalize any agreement.

Public input continues to come in following Coaldale facilities open house

Palliser has received about 60 responses to a request for input on how to most effectively use the division's school spaces in Coaldale and Sunnyside. The board and administration invited ideas and suggestions at an facilities planning open house held in Coaldale Jan. 31.

Acting Superintendent Dr. Garry Andrews said he expects feedback will continue to be submitted over the next week or so. Verbatim comments are being recorded in a spreadsheet for review and to identify themes.

Andrews said he expects to categorize the suggestions by theme which can then be shared with the public for further discussion. He said another public meeting will be held, likely in late April or early May, to outline possible solutions to crowding at Jennie Emery Elementary School and underutilization of other buildings.

At the open house, facility strengths and challenges and current enrolment and utilization data was shared during what Andrews called "just the start of a conversation" about school needs in the growing community.

The presentations shared at the open house are [online](#) as well as contact information for sharing suggestions and other feedback.

Palliser has also been in contact with the Town of Coaldale to arrange a meeting of council and school board to discuss education and community issues.

Next regular meeting: Feb. 21, 2017

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