

## **Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting**

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

### **Citizen's Forum**

There will be greater opportunity for public input at regular board meetings in the future, although the exact shape that takes has yet to be determined.

Trustees passed a motion to have the new board, under direction of the new superintendent, establish parameters for a citizen's forum portion of regular board meetings. Chair Robert Strauss said a means for members of the public to address the board without formal appointment was among the recommendations that came out of the organizational review.

### **Ombudsperson Position**

The Board of Trustees has deferred the new position of Ombudsperson to the incoming board and new superintendent.

The position was a recommendation that came out of the Organizational Review of Palliser Regional Schools. Chair Robert Strauss said the position is an important one, and in order to "get it right the first time" the board needs more time to figure out the details.

The Board earlier put out a proposal for the position, which would report directly to the trustees and have the authority to handle internal and external stakeholder complaints. The individual would investigate and resolve complaints, where possible, and make recommendations to the trustees for action, as appropriate.

Strauss said the position would be a contractual one, rather than a staff member, and would operate at arm's length from the school division. He pointed out the position is not one a lot of other boards have created, and a number of school jurisdictions around the province will be following Palliser's experience with interest.

### **Secretary-Treasurer Position**

Trustees extended the temporary contract of Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Braun as they look to fill the position permanently.

The Board voted to extend his contract to a date set by the new superintendent, with an end-date no later than Dec. 22. Braun, whose temporary contract was set to expire Oct. 13, is retiring.

Interviews for a new secretary-treasurer are set to begin Oct. 3. Acting Superintendent Brian Andjelic said there is a great pool of candidates and he short-listed five of them for interviews. Leaving Braun's contract open-ended at this point allows for some flexibility and hopefully some transition time spent with the successful candidate.

Trustee Craig Whitehead thanked Braun on behalf of the Board for his contributions as well as his willingness to extend his contract to allow as smooth a transition as possible.

## **First Meeting for New Board**

The first occasion for the new Board of Trustees to meet after the Oct. 16 election will be a little later than planned.

The organizational meeting – where a chair and vice-chair are voted on by fellow trustees and participation on various working committees is determined, will be held Oct. 30. Chair Robert Strauss explained that a new trustee, who won her ward by acclamation, had prior commitments and was out of the country on the original date.

Acting Superintendent Brian Andjelic used the occasion to thank those trustees who have decided not to run for another term – Colleen Deitz, Esther Willms and Don Zech – for their years of dedication and service.

Trustee Craig Whitehead, in turn, thanked Andjelic for the guidance he provided during his one-month term as acting superintendent. The new superintendent, Dave Driscoll, begins Oct. 1.

## **Company Vehicles Policy**

The board approved a new policy regarding the use of Palliser vehicles. Policy 21 will prohibit the personal use of company vehicles outside the normal work day, following Canada Revenue Agency guidelines, and require the use of a log to record mileage on all occasions.

Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Braun told trustees a study was done which determined it is more advantageous for Palliser to own a fleet of company vehicles than pay mileage to employees driving their personal vehicles. The savings to Palliser is about \$4,000 per year for the life of a vehicle.

Braun also pointed out all company vehicles now bear Palliser signage, to set them apart from employee's personal vehicles. Maintenance vans, which employees may have to use for work purposes after hours, are exempt.

## **Off-Duty Conduct**

A policy regarding off-duty conduct of Palliser employees was discussed by trustees but the matter was deferred to the incoming board.

While the board was told legal counsel did not have significant concerns over the policy, trustees mentioned it was one which received the most negative comments from those reviewing the policies. Trustee Colleen Deitz said she felt the policy was redundant in that pertinent matters were already covered under another policy.

## **Traffic Concerns Meeting**

Trustees Esther Willms, Debbie Laturnus and Craig Whitehead reported they were to attend a meeting with members of Coaldale Town Council following the Palliser board meeting to voice concerns over student safety relating to a proposed road change.

Board members are concerned the proposed transportation route on the east side of R.I. Baker Middle School will mean increased traffic flow in the area and impact student safety.

***The next regular meeting of the Palliser Regional Schools Board of Trustees is scheduled for Oct. 30, 2017***