



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018

Inclement Weather Policy

The Palliser Regional Schools Board of Trustees hopes to have feedback from principals, the Alberta Teachers' Association and parents through School Council to allow it to make a decision at February's meeting on possible changes to the division's inclement weather policy.

The existing policy permits only the cancellation of buses due to weather conditions, for either the entire division or on a route-by-route basis. Schools remain open and staff are expected to report to work. The board expressed concern that staff may be put at risk driving to school on roads deemed unsafe for bus traffic.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll told trustees the policies of neighbouring school divisions were studied and two things were evident. If schools are closed on snow days, a communications plan must be in place so parents and staff get timely advance notice. It is also crucial at least limited staff – perhaps those living closest to the school – are at the school for any students who do show up. They would contact parents to come pick those students up.

Stakeholders Meeting

The Board of Trustees will consider holding a stakeholder meeting, likely next fall, as a means to increase community engagement.

Although Alberta Education expects boards to offer such engagement opportunities, Superintendent Dave Driscoll said it is important that it serves a purpose. The input provided could perhaps be used to renew the vision or mission of the division, he suggested. Trustee Kristine Cassie said it could also be part of the board's strategic planning.

The board is expected to discuss the matter in more depth at the regular board meeting in March, with a potential for an October stakeholder meeting. The last division-wide stakeholder meeting in Palliser Regional Schools was 'A Community Conversation 2015,' and was held in the spring in the central location of Vulcan.

Transportation Accountability Report

Trustees heard how potential changes in provincial policy could impact the bottom line of the Transportation Services department.

The department ran a balanced budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Financial challenges may occur, however, if the province drops the 2.4-km cutoff down to 1.6 km and doesn't provide extra funding. Under that scenario, Transportation Supervisor David Shaw told the board Palliser would have to pick up the cost of another two or three more school buses necessary to carry the extra passengers.

The next regular meeting of the Palliser Regional Schools Board of Trustees is scheduled for Feb. 27, 2018.

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