



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018

Enrollment and Staffing Updates

Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey updated trustees on the enrollment figures with Palliser now sitting at 8,494 students, up 199 from last year. Of those additional students, 120 of them are kindergarten students. He also noted those numbers include international students, who are not here for the full year.

The Board heard there are some schools which have seen a significant increase, and others where there are declining numbers but the overall picture is positive, said Superintendent Dave Driscoll. There are a few hot spots where additional staff may need to be hired.

Building Status at Palliser Education Centre

Trustees will be provided with an update at December's meeting on significant repairs needed at the Palliser Education Centre. Those will include plans and cost estimates of the work needed, as well as details on where the funding will come to pay for it, said Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey.

The Board heard at its last meeting that a review of the facility indicated faltering systems including plumbing, heating and cooling, with no significant upgrades done for years. A fire-sprinkler system malfunction over the summer resulted in extensive water damage to Central Office and required all sprinkler heads to be replaced.

The IT for Dominica Project

The Board and senior administration see an educational opportunity for students to support their counterparts in the Commonwealth of Dominica as they bounce back from a catastrophic hurricane.

In a follow-up meeting to an earlier call for support, a project spokesman was told Palliser will explore ways it can help out. That could mean donating used technology, providing storage for donated technology and putting project organizers in contact with Palliser partners which may be able to offer support in various ways.

Board Chair Robert Strauss said Palliser might also let schools know of Dominica's needs in case they are looking for opportunities to foster global citizenship in their students. Not only would students on the Caribbean island be grateful for the support of children their own age, the Palliser students might learn more about life in Dominica.

Student Transportation Issues

David Shaw, Transportation Services Supervisor, outlined snow clearing protocol followed by Volker Stevin – on behalf of the province – and Vulcan County. His report was in response to earlier concerns voiced by trustees over delays in clearing school bus routes in the area. Volker Stevin handles the highways and secondary highways, and Vulcan County the other rural rounds.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll said the discussion was a good opportunity for Shaw to explain the process that goes into the decision to cancel bus service on a route-by-route or division-wide basis. Trustees heard how such decisions are taken very seriously and only after all possible sources available are checked.

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

Space solutions sought for Sunnyside School

The Board passed a motion to have administration apply for a modular classroom to alleviate a space crunch expected at Sunnyside School.

The elementary school currently has single classrooms for students in kindergarten through Grade 4, with a combined Grade 5-6 class. Projected enrollment for next year indicates there will not be space for Grade 6 students without an additional classroom.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll explained that applying for a modular classroom doesn't guarantee one will be approved. The province looks at requests each year and decides which will be approved for a previously-used unit or a new one. If a unit is approved for Palliser, it would still be responsible for the cost of transporting it and putting it in place, usually a price tag of about \$50,000.