



# Palliser Regional Schools

## Palliser Centre

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## Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2018

### International Student Program

Associate Superintendent Tom Hamer provided highlights of Palliser's International Student Program, which has seen significant growth over the past year. To date, Palliser has already hosted 207 international students, besting the 176 who visited all of last year. The number of schools hosting international students has also increased, from 11 last year to 15 this year, and the number of countries taking part has expanded to 10.

Trustees heard the focus has been on recruiting students for longer stays – at least a month – in that they tend to provide a greater learning opportunity for both Palliser students and those visiting. Hamer said the strength of the program is the home stay families, now numbering about 150, who go out of their way to provide the visitors with a meaningful experience.

### Facilities Services Report

The Board heard from Rod Swartzenberger, Facilities Services Supervisor, on the progress his department has made in dealing with work order requests from individual schools. He also provided a list of major improvements completed at schools across the division including everything from boiler replacements, to LED lighting upgrades and installations of security cameras.

Dexter Durfey, Secretary-Treasurer, said facilities services staff have been very aggressive in completing projects which had been on a waiting list. Chair Robert Strauss added the Board has seen the rewards of the department's hard work and appreciates everyone's efforts.

### Huntsville School Update

Trustees were informed that the province just recently awarded the contract for a replacement school for Huntsville School to Lear Contracting, which worked on the Noble Central School modernization.

In earlier approving construction of the new school in Iron Springs, the government determined it would manage the project. Dexter Durfey, Secretary-Treasurer, said Palliser's Facilities Services Supervisor, Rod Swartzenberger will liaise with Lear Contracting to provide administration and the Board with regular updates on the project's progress. Durfey anticipates site preparation could start in March or April with construction to begin once the ground has thawed.

### Palliser Education Centre Improvements

The Board approved a motion that the tender process proceed for the mechanical and electrical systems upgrade at the Palliser Education Centre, including some improvements to meeting spaces. Prior to a contract being awarded, the Board will review and approve the budget.

Funding for the improvements will come from the sale of surplus land on the PEC property and other sources, and will not impact students.

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

## **Playground Grant Application**

Dexter Durfey, Secretary-Treasurer, told trustees that Palliser has submitted playground grant applications to the province on behalf of three schools. Those schools – Huntsville School, Milo Community School and Arrowwood Community School – were the only ones in the school division which qualified under the government requirements.

He explained that the province has not funded playgrounds in the past, but recently announced a grant availability with school boards able to submit up to three applications. The total number of playgrounds which will receive government funding is unclear.

***The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019***