



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

#101, 3305 - 18 Avenue North, Lethbridge, AB T1H 5S1

Phone: 403-328-4111 Toll-free: 877-667-1234

Fax: 403-380-6890 www.pallisersd.ab.ca

Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Seclusion Rooms

Director of Learning Tom Hamer informed trustees that Palliser does not have any schools with seclusion rooms, as defined by Alberta Education. A ministerial order has prohibited the use of seclusion rooms, unless a specific application and reasoning is submitted and approved. He explained seclusion rooms, sometimes referred to as 'cool-down' rooms, were used by some schools for students who might cause harm to others and could be locked. That is different from breakout rooms, where students can work individually without distraction.

Student Exchange

Two Grade 11 students from Kate Andrews High School, Bailey Kasko and Kinzey Kerner, provided the Board with highlights from their two-month exchange to Chile earlier this school year. The two spoke about their host families, the difference between schools here and in Chile, a shared appreciation of ice cream and empanadas, and skiing on a snow-covered volcano. They told trustees they were surprised how family-orientated their hosts were, the lack of WIFI in some areas, and the overwhelming number of well-kept, stray dogs on the streets. Both felt they gained a greater sense of independence during the trip, and recommended those who might follow their footsteps to enter with an open mind and willingness to try new things.

Technology Report

Director of Learning Tom Hamer and Technology Integration Specialist Jason Kwasny provided the Board with the annual technology report, explaining where the division is at this point, compared to last year. Much of the focus this year has been on replacing aging technology, working towards the ratio of two students to every one device, and providing staff with the support to be comfortable with the changes and make best use of the technology. It was emphasized technology does not replace the need for strong instructional practice, but is used to support learning and allow the teacher more time to work individually with students.

Capital Plan

Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey provided trustees with the 2010-2022 capital plan, which includes Palliser's priorities for school improvements and construction. He pointed out little has changed from the current plan, with a Coaldale solution remaining the priority. County Central High School in Vulcan is next in line, followed by the two Coalhurst schools and then Sunnyside School. Durfey hopes to have a complete inventory of every school, including history and structural analysis, ready sometime this spring to guide trustees in future discussions.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019

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