



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, June 18, 2019

Division and School Goals

The Board of Trustees approved Division and School goals as identified through a mid-April Board Planning session in which Palliser's senior leadership team and Board of Trustees worked with school administrators to come up with a direction for the school division for years to come. Superintendent Dave Driscoll said three key areas were identified – literacy, numeracy and mental health/wellness.

Work to develop strategies to achieve those goals are underway, said Driscoll, noting means are being sought to better incorporate literacy across the curriculum and focus on more than assessment scores. Strategies to achieve the mental health goals are proving challenging, he said, in that Palliser is looking to go beyond de-stigmatizing the issue, to teaching students how to be mentally healthy.

Operating Budget for 2019-2020

After discussion and deliberation the Board of Trustees moved that the 2019-2020 budget be accepted as presented and that it be sent to Alberta Education for approval. Board Chair Robert Strauss thanked all involved in the process for their hard work and diligence in providing a detailed and thorough budget presentation.

Superintendent Evaluation

Trustees will look for an internal evaluation of Superintendent Dave Driscoll, with “non-editorialized” feedback supplied by senior administration and the Board to look at areas of success and potential areas for growth. Board Chair Robert Strauss noted this first evaluation will be a more narrative process than the evaluative document they hope to be able to use in future years.

Successful candidates are usually provided with specific criteria they will be evaluated on in the future, but he noted that wasn't possible due to the “extraordinary circumstances” under which Driscoll accepted the position. It was also noted only two current trustees were Board members at the time of his hiring. The goal is to have the evaluation process complete by September.

Off-Campus Education

Director Jason Kupery provided an update on the significant growth of Palliser's Off-Campus Education Program, which seeks to: engage and excite students about learning; engage community-connected learning; educate students about options for future education and employment; and provide off-campus opportunities for hands-on applications of what they've been learning in class.

He noted the number of students enrolled in dual-credit courses has increased from five in 2017-18 to 50 this year, and partnerships have been developed with six new, post-secondary institutions with 35 total courses offered as a result. The number of students in the Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAP) has increased from zero two years ago, to 20 this year, and that has included greater interest from Low German-speaking Mennonite students.

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

Other success stories include partnerships with neighbouring school divisions to increase the courses offered, and a new, user-friendly website for Off-Campus Education.

Facilities Services Update

Trustees were provided an update on the many projects underway across the school division. Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey noted the playground renewal work at Coalhurst Elementary School is nearing completion, while the school grounds at Dorothy Dalgliesh School in Picture Butte have been seeded and fertilized.

Maintenance crews are fixing up the tennis and beach volleyball courts at Kate Andrews High School in Coaldale, and work will be done this summer at the Cultural Recreation Centre at County Central High School in Vulcan to install new audio-visual equipment, paint and refinish the large gym floor. He said Palliser has increased its summer student mowing crew from four to five and reviews of the work they are doing has been impressive. Prep work on the new Huntsville School building continues, with construction to begin soon.