



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Monday, August 26, 2019

Organizational Meeting

The Palliser Board of Trustees will have a familiar look after the organizational meeting for the 2019-2020 school year. Robert Strauss is once again Board Chair, Debbie Laturnus is Vice-Chair and Lorelei Bexte is Alternate Vice-Chair. All were voted in by acclamation. The meeting also saw members named to a variety of internal and external committees.

Board names Deputy Superintendent

Upon recommendation of Superintendent Dave Driscoll, trustees have returned Mike Nightingale to the position of deputy superintendent for the 2019-2020 school year. Each year the Board is asked to designate one of the associate superintendents as the acting superintendent for those occasions where the superintendent is unavailable. There is no financial compensation for that designation.

Financial Update

Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey provided the Board with updated financial projections to the end of August. Although a few months ago it looked like the deficit might be as high as \$800,000, his projections now call for a deficit of just over \$203,000. He notes that figure equates to .02 of a per cent of the total operating budget.

Trustees heard there were surplus funds in the areas of early childhood services, plants and operation, transportation and board system and administration, the latter with a surplus of almost \$66,000 – which is a huge departure from the situation just a year ago. Durfey thanked everyone in the division for their conscientious spending, while assuring decisions are made in the best interest of the students.

Operations and Maintenance Update

Facilities and maintenance staff, with the help of summer students and local contractors, have had a busy summer getting things ready for the new school year and continuing Palliser Regional Schools' efforts to make school grounds across the division a source of pride in the communities they serve.

Rod Swartzenberger, Facilities Services Supervisor, provided trustees with a long list of work accomplished, including the installation of more than 100 interactive white boards, projectors and large-screen televisions, as well as new audio-visual equipment in a number of schools. Along with infrastructure updates and exterior concrete work to help with drainage issues, school yards were kept mowed by a team of five university students and further work was done on improving school fields, with local contractors used wherever possible.

Board Chair Robert Strauss thanked the crew for their efforts, including increased interaction with the community.

Transportation Policy Draft

The Board addressed recent concerns raised over busing in some regions of Palliser and a draft policy on student transportation has been developed.

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

The Board is seeking input on the the draft and a final version will be brought back for discussion at the next regular meeting. The draft of Policy 19: Student Transportation, can be found on the Palliser website under the Trustees section, and heading 'Policy Review.'

Land sale finalized

The trustees heard from Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey that the sale of surplus land on the property on which the Palliser Education Centre (PEC) is located has been finalized. All avenues were exhausted with a final purchase price of approximately \$730,000 considered fair value for the property.

With the sale now complete, Durfey said tenders will be put out for necessary mechanical and electrical upgrades to the PEC. Should the Board approve the project, no instructional or classroom funding will be impacted.

OH&S Co-ordinator Named

Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey introduced Palliser's new Occupational Health and Safety Co-ordinator, Mark Stolte, to trustees. Stolte, who has a background as an electrician and has worked with school divisions for more than a dozen years, said one of the challenges of the role is the wide diversity of school buildings in Palliser, including a number which are not owned by the school division.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019