



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019

International Student Program

Associate Superintendent Tom Hamer provided trustees with highlights of Palliser's International Student Program and some areas of focus in the coming year. While the total number of international students the division has hosted to date, 186, is down slightly from the 2018-2019 school year, he noted Palliser has added students from two additional countries and has seen increased interest in hosting students from more schools across the division.

Palliser has also increased the number of countries our students can visit as part of a reciprocal exchanges from one, to two, with opportunities for another three on the way. This offers Palliser students new cultural and learning opportunities, allows them to form lifetime bonds, and encourages them to think globally. Hamer noted the strength of Palliser's International Student Program is the homestay families, and the division will be increasing the amount of money they receive for hosting the visitors.

Facilities Report

The Board approved the updated Infrastructure, Maintenance and Repair (IMR) report for 2019-2020, with Chair Robert Strauss thanking Facilities Services Supervisor Rod Swartzenberger and his staff for their work and their proactive approach in getting on top of a long list of service requests from schools, 1,490 in total.

Swartzenberger said the initiation of a summer mowing crew has paid dividends, and his staff were also busy doing improvements to schoolyards and installing technology at schools across the division. He told trustees that progress on the replacement school for Huntsville School has been slowed due to the unseasonable fall weather, but they're working hard to get it back on schedule.

Annual Education Results Report

Trustees voted to accept the 2018-2019 Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and Three-Year Education Plan for 2019 through 2022, which will be posted on the Palliser website. The AERR includes Provincial Achievement Tests, Diploma Exams and input from students, staff and parents, while the other represents a plan of action to deal with any areas of concern and to focus on the Board's priorities of literacy, numeracy and wellness.

Associate Superintendent Tom Hamer said Palliser continues to do extremely well on the standardized tests but there are still areas which need to be addressed, including results from First Nations, Metis and Inuit students. Each school also has its own 'report card' and should be sharing that information with parents.

Early Learning Report

Co-ordinating Principal of Early Learning, Nathan Sillito, provided an overview of Palliser's Early Learning program and Program Unit Funding (PUF) and emphasized the investment made in those students pays off in the long run, especially when dealing with English Language Learners.

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

He noted a new Early Childhood Framework – similar to curriculum, although not mandatory – has been released and continued professional development for those educators will be key. They have already received instruction in the importance of outdoor play, and Hanen Teacher Talk training, which shows them how to speak and play with young children in ways that support their language development.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020.

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