



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 17, 2020

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

Deputy Superintendent Mike Nightingale provided the Board with an update on the pandemic and the steps which have been taken to date. He added the situation is a very fluid one, and the status of the information he provided them could change dramatically and swiftly.

Although the province ordered the cancellation of classes in all schools across Alberta, Palliser Regional Schools' staff are expected to be at work. They have been allowed some flexibility while making childcare arrangements.

The senior leadership team has been in communication with staff, students and parents to let them know plans are being developed to offer learning opportunities to students and that information will be shared once available. Arrangements are also being made to allow for students' personal belongings to be picked up from school.

While these are challenging times, Nightingale is confident Palliser has outstanding people in our schools who will respond accordingly.

Insurance and Travel Coverage for Students

Given the determination that there is an increased risk of harm due to the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic and the current Government of Canada travel advisories, trustees approved a motion that all international and interprovincial trips, funded in whole or in part by any school entity under The Palliser School Division, for students and staff will be cancelled or postponed until further notice.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll explained that a formal motion was necessary in order for schools to get refunds for trips that had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.

Budget Update

Secretary-treasurer Dexter Durfey informed trustees that the projected deficit is just over \$1 million after some \$450,000 was transferred from Infrastructure Maintenance and Renewal funds as approved by the province.

He said there could be some substantial changes in both revenues and expenditures, however, as a result of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Those could include reduced expenditures in areas such as supplies, substitute teaching costs and fuel for school buses, but also potential revenue losses such as a reduction in bus rentals by outside agencies.

Ratification of Agreement

The Board approved and ratified the Memorandum of Agreement between the Palliser School Division and the Alberta Teacher's Association Local #19 as negotiated and presented. Deputy Superintendent Mike Nightingale told trustees Palliser was very appreciative of the way negotiations were handled and felt relations between staff and school division remain positive as a result.

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

Board Chair Robert Strauss echoed those sentiments, thanked everyone for their work in coming to an agreement, and commented that it is a good sign of things to come in the future.

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

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