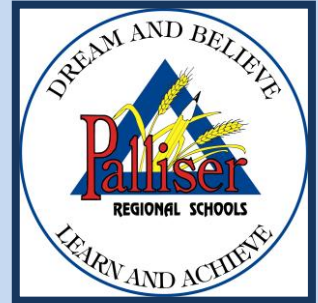


From the Chair ...

Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, May 19, 2009



- Administration was advised that a recent newspaper article highlighted a grocery store operating out of Carmangay School. Administration was directed to investigate whether this is indeed the case, as the Village of Carmangay currently leases the facility from the Board.
- Rob Fath, OH&S Coordinator, provided an OH&S Accountability Report to the Board indicating the status of implementation of OH&S legislation across the jurisdiction and plans for the future. Safety committees are currently being established at each site, and Mr. Fath will be coordinating a safety training schedule to ensure adequate numbers of staff are trained at each site.
- The Board received an overview of the final reports resulting from school reviews at Calgary Christian Elementary and High Schools in March 2009. Both sites were commended for the positive climate that exists in their buildings, as well as for the programming being offered there.
- Terry Gunderson, a consultant with ASBA, has been engaged to facilitate the comprehensive Transportation Review, which will include input from all stakeholders at two public meetings, and focus group meetings with school principals and bus drivers.
- The Board received information regarding proposals for modified school calendars for the 2009-10 school year. With the exception of two calendars where discussions are still underway with principals, the remainder of the calendars have been approved and will be posted to the website shortly.
- The Board will direct a letter supporting the position of ASBA related to Bill 44, which would require advance notice to be given to a parent of how and when a controversial issue might be taught in the classroom, allowing them the opportunity opt their child out of the discussion. The ASBA, ATA, CASS and ASCA strongly oppose Bill 44 and agree that common sense should prevail, allowing parents, teachers and school administrators to resolve these questions in a collaborative way at the local board level.
- Palliser received a very positive "report card" through the Accountability Pillar issued by Alberta Education.
- Trustees reviewed the capital plan for submission to Alberta Education, noting that since no capital projects are being approved for 2009, the previous plan has simply been altered to delay the proposed dates by one year.
- Trustees received a financial update for the 8-month period ending April 30, 2009.
- Mr. Kirkham advised that principals were asked to collect and submit purchase cards to Central Office by May 15, with the exception of one card to be held by the principal. In addition, a review of

purchase cards held by Central Office staff will take place over the summer. No additional cards will be issued in the future without the approval of the Superintendent.

- The Board provided with an update regarding the PBHS Modernization Project. Tendering is expected to take place early to mid-August.
- The Board was advised that beginning in 2009-10, Palliser will be charging a transportation fee for Coaldale Christian School students utilizing Palliser buses. This is a result of funding from Alberta no longer being provided for these students.
- The Board supported a proposal to increase the transportation fee for ineligible students within the Town of Coaldale effective 2009-10. The Secretary-Treasurer will present a fee proposal to the Board at the June 16 meeting.
- Recent staffing announcements effective 2009-10 were shared with the Board, including: Laurie Wilson (currently Vice Principal at Coalhurst Elementary) has been appointed Principal at Coalhurst Elementary School; Joanne Steed-Takasaki (currently a teacher at Jennie Emery Elementary School) and Joe Buckler (currently a teacher in Brooks) have been appointed Vice Principals at Kate Andrews High School; Byron Thiessen (currently Vice Principal at Master's Academy & College) will assume the Principal position at Menno Simons Christian School in Calgary; Wayne Tate (currently Vice Principal at Kate Andrews High School) has assumed the role of Principal of Colony Schools; and Janice Loitz (currently Principal of Colony Schools) has been appointed Principal of John Davidson School (Coaldale LGM alternative program). The Board was also advised that the centralized position of Early Literacy Specialist will be eliminated in 2009-10.
- A delegation of parents attended the meeting to express their disappointment that the Parent Link Centre is being moved out of Nortondale Community Centre to accommodate the new Coaldale LGM alternative program. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding possible options for the PLC, but no solutions were determined. Palliser will be submitting an application for a double classroom modular to be attached to Jennie Emery Elementary School; if that application is successful, it is possible that some of that space could be shared with the Parent Link Centre on an interim basis.
- Trustees received an update on the AISI Cycle 4 model and priorities for supporting learner engagement. The new model will move to a coaching model in the Assessment for Learning area, with teachers at each site working with Clarice Gilbert, AISI Team Leader, and alongside other teachers. The area of health and wellness will be coordinated by AISI Team Leader Rob Cowie, including the character education component. Two social studies specialists will be engaged to do unit development and provide inservicing of social studies teachers to assist them in integrating technology and aligning their lesson plans with the new program of studies. Instructional supervision, beginning teacher mentorship and teacher leadership are other areas of the plan.
- The Board passed a resolution amending the authorization period for locally developed course TEAM Leadership, as the authorization dates for this course have been amended by Alberta Education.
- Currently, Learning Services staff are reviewing feedback from schools and incorporating some minor revisions into the standard reporting template. The committee is working with the SIS Clerk to have templates entered into SIRS, and subsequently, the SIS Clerk will work with school secretaries to customize the templates to meet the unique needs of each school.
- Trustees requested that administration make arrangements for a session with Dr. Sue Lynch to gain information about the Early Childhood Development Mapping Project. This session will include trustees, elementary principals and kindergarten teachers who would be involved in gathering information for the project.

- Trustees received an update regarding the status of the three modular units proposed for installation in Vulcan to house the Vulcan Daycare Society. The establishment of a before- and after-school program at Vulcan Prairieview Elementary School under the direction of the Vulcan Daycare Society is also being considered.
- Palliser has completed the application for a modular to house the preschool program at Jennie Emery Elementary School. We have applied for a 40-space modular to support growth in the preschool population.
- There are currently 19 children registered for before/after-school care in the PLAY Program at Jennie Emery Elementary School. Registrations for the summer program are underway and, to date, there are 19 children registered. Advertising for summer child care includes newspaper ads and brochure distribution. At this time, 21 registrations have been received for the fall program.
- Due to a funding reduction by Southwest Alberta Child and Family Services, the Parents as Teachers program is requesting support from Palliser to continue the services of the 0.5 FTE parent educator working with Palliser families. Due to budget restrictions for the 2009-10 school year, a resolution to support this request was defeated.



Don Zech, Board Chair
Palliser Regional Schools