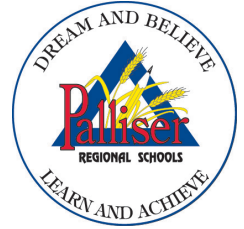


Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

October 29, 2013



New chair and vice-chair to lead Palliser Board

The Board of Trustees held their first official meeting Tuesday, Oct. 29 at Palliser Centre in Lethbridge. The first order of business was election of a chair and vice-chair by secret ballot. Long-time chairman Don Zech nominated Colleen Deitz as chair. With no other nominations, Deitz was acclaimed to the position. Deitz is a 15-year veteran of the Palliser Board and spent 11 of those years serving as vice-chair.

For the position of vice-chair, there were two nominees: Robert Strauss and Don Zech. A secret ballot was conducted and the result was a tie. Trustees were given an opportunity to vote again with the second ballot also resulting in a tie. In keeping with direction from Municipal Affairs, the decision was made by a draw, conducted by Corporate Secretary Joanne Siljak. The result is Zech will serve as vice-chair for the 2013-2014 year.

Joining Deitz, Zech and Strauss on the board are trustees Joan Boras, Debbie Laturnus and Esther Willms.

The Board made the following assignments to external committees:

- Alberta School Boards Association, Zone 6: Robert Strauss
- Public School Boards' Association: Don Zech
- County of Vulcan Adult Learning Council: Colleen Deitz
- County of Lethbridge Community Learning Council: Esther Willms
- Joint C2 Committee: John Boras, Don Zech and Colleen Deitz
- Coaldale Community Services: Debbie Laturnus
- Vulcan and District Joint Use Committee: Robert Strauss
- Labour Relations Negotiating Committee: Don Zech, Esther Willms and Colleen Deitz.
- Board-Teacher Advisory Committee: Debbie Laturnus, Joan Boras and Colleen Deitz.
- Audit Committee: Joan Boras, Robert Strauss and



The Board of Trustees are photographed following their swearing-in ceremony Monday, Oct. 28. Back row from left are Vice-chair Don Zech; Chair Colleen Deitz; Trustee Esther Willms; Trustee Robert Strauss. Front row from left are: Trustee Debbie Laturnus; Superintendent Kevin Gietz; and Trustee Joan Boras.

Colleen Deitz.

- Wall of Fame Committee: Don Zech, Esther Willms and Colleen Deitz.
- Facilities Committee: Robert Strauss, Don Zech and Colleen Deitz.

The Board also set its meeting schedule for the coming year. Regular meetings will be held on the following dates, barring the Board passing a motion to change a date:

- November 12, 2013
- December 10, 2013
- January 14, 2014
- February 11, 2014
- March 11, 2014
- April 8, 2014
- May 13, 2014
- June 10, 2014
- August 26, 2014

A special meeting for the Board to discuss this year's budget update will be held Nov. 26. The budget update must be submitted to Alberta Education by Nov. 30.

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

While most of the Board's meetings are held at Palliser's Central Office in Lethbridge, the Board holds four meetings a year in schools. This year's off-site locations are: Calgary Christian Secondary School, Champion School, Kate Andrews High School in Coaldale and Noble Central School in Nobleford.

The Board voted to maintain remuneration at current rates.

During the regular meeting, the Board also established trustee liaisons to its Christian alternative program schools in Calgary and Brant. Parents who enrol students at these programs live outside Palliser's geographic boundaries. Although Brant is in Vulcan County, many parents there live in the High River area. The liaison trustee serves to represent these schools and meets with their school councils. Some of the schools have two people identified, in part to support new trustees.

The liaisons appointments are:

Calgary Christian School - Joan Boras, Colleen Deitz

Menno Simons Christian School - Esther Willms

Heritage Christian Academy - Don Zech

Master's Academy & College - Robert Strauss

Trinity Christian School - Debbie Laturnus, with

support for Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Dale Backlin

Glenmore Christian Academy - Don Zech, Colleen Deitz

Brant Christian School - Robert Strauss

Palliser to submit proposal for presentation at national conference

Palliser's Board of Trustees will answer a call for presentations to the National Congress on Rural Education in Saskatoon, March 30-April 1. Trustees discussed sharing the story of Palliser's evolution over the past decade. In that time, Palliser moved away from site-based management which saw each school principal operating his/her school fairly independently, to a centralized model of services provided by Central Office staff. The change freed school principals from being small business managers, refocusing their expertise as educational leaders focused on student learning. Chair Colleen Deitz said the shift in budgeting helped close the gap from a system of have and have-not schools. Over the period, Palliser's results improved dramatically at the same time as enrolment doubled as the division brought thousands of students to the public education system through faith-based and Low German Mennonite alternative programs.

The theme of this year's Rural Congress is "The Changing Reality of Rural Schools."

In previous years, Palliser has been invited to present at the National Congress on the division's school goals process, school reviews and school bus safety efforts.

Deitz, who attended the conference last year, said the sessions were valuable as trustees made connections that helped Palliser pursue its own online delivery of courses.

Board reviews Policy 3, Role of the Trustee

The trustees passed a motion to amend Appendix 3A of Board Policy 3, Role of the Trustee, to include provision of an electronic device to trustees. The Board discussed a desire to reduce its reliance on paper this term.

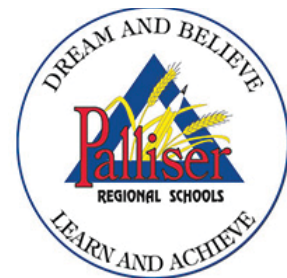
Joint C2 Committee update

Associate Superintendent (Human Resources) Kevin Garinger updated the Board on the work of the Joint C2 Committee, established in accordance with a clause in the 2013-2016 Provincial Framework Agreement, ratified by the Board and Alberta Teachers' Association Local #19. The committee is composed of representatives from Palliser's Board, administration and teachers, who are discussing teacher workload and efficacy issues. Garinger co-chairs the committee with Wayne Tate, principal of Palliser's Hutterite Colony schools. Information about the Joint C2 Committee is found on Palliser's website at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/hr/joint-c2-committee>

Locally developed course approved

The Board voted to approve use of Marine Biology 35-5, a locally developed course, at County Central High School during the Spring 2014 semester.

Locally developed courses require Board and Alberta Education approval before being offered in schools. This five-credit course was developed by Parkland School Division.



Literacy symposium a hit with Palliser principals and vice-principals

Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Dale Backlin shared overwhelmingly positive feedback collected from Palliser's principals and vice-principals at the conclusion of a Leadership in Literacy Symposium Oct. 16-18. The symposium was based on the "13 Parameters: A Literacy Leadership Toolkit," published by Pearson Canada and developed by Michael Fullan and Lyn Sharratt. The workshop was led by Palliser's literacy coaches, Connie Adserballe and Bev Smith, with Central Office staff and Palliser principals sharing their own experience with literacy education.

Backlin said when a school division considers a

symposium like this, they tend to bring in an expert from outside the organization, yet “one of the most effective ways is to get the people in there talking to each other and sharing with each other in a collaborative model.”

Several Palliser principals have referred to the symposium as the “best professional development we’ve ever had.”

Backlin thanked Palliser teachers for completing reading assessments on Grade 2-6 students. Teachers have also identified students from Grades 7 and up who are not reading at grade level and efforts are being made to support them in improving their literacy.

Palliser provides substitute teacher time to ensure classroom teachers have the opportunity to work with students one-on-one to assess individual reading levels to better understand what instruction the student needs.

Palliser students part of dual credit Health Care Aide program

Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Dale Backlin updated the Board on dual credit programs being offered by Lethbridge College. A first group of students began a Health Care Aide program this fall. Twenty-six Grade 11 and 12 students are in the program from Holy Spirit, Horizon and Westwinds School Divisions. When they successfully complete the program, they’ll receive both a Lethbridge College certificate and credits toward their high school diploma. No Palliser students took part this fall. Backlin said interest is high in Palliser for a dual credit welding certificate program.

(NOTE: An earlier version of the Board Highlights did not indicate where the 26 students are from.)

Palliser teachers working on content for online delivery in Semester 2

Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard said work continues on developing Palliser’s new, as yet still unnamed online school.

More than 90 high school courses tied to Alberta Education’s Programs of Studies have been downloaded from a provincial electronic sharing database and work is now underway by Palliser staff to review and enrich the course content. A team of Palliser high school teachers will be meeting in November to focus on development of content for about 30 courses which can then be offered to students in second semester this year.

In this semester, 36 students in Palliser are working on online courses with Principal/teacher Alison Hancox and an online community of learners from across Alberta, Oregon and Washington.

Better bandwidth for Palliser schools

Palliser has changed Internet Service Providers to improve service to schools.

The switch to Cybera on Oct. 11, 2013 gives Palliser access to a service called “peering.” High demand destinations like YouTube and Google are directed to a separate pipeline than other Internet traffic. In the first week, Technology Services noted 63 per cent of Internet traffic had been “peered,” leaving more primary bandwidth available for other Internet services.

Overwhelmingly positive response to first collaborative day

Palliser’s teachers, surveyed after the first division-wide collaborative day on Sept. 20, were overwhelmingly positive about the day of professional learning. Ninety-five per cent of teachers who responded said the collaborative work will directly impact student learning, said Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard.

Teachers are encouraged to self-select topics that will contribute to their school goals and improve student learning through literacy and/or assessment for learning. The work brings together teachers from across Palliser in small professional learning groups who meet on four division-wide PD days a year.

A second collaboration day was scheduled for Oct. 28 in Vulcan but due to poor weather and road conditions, the day was used for professional development in individual schools instead.

Measles updates shared with staff

Staff in Palliser’s schools, particularly in the Lethbridge area, remain on the watch for signs of measles, following warnings from Alberta Health Services.

Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard said information from AHS has been distributed through Palliser’s website and automated phone messages to families in the County of Lethbridge. A student confirmed as having measles is required to be quarantined for 21 days.

Measles is a highly contagious disease spread through coughing and sneezing. Anyone who has not had measles in the past and has not been vaccinated is at risk of the disease. Typical symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes and a blotch rash that appears three to seven days after the fever begins.

Anyone with these symptoms or uncertain of his/her vaccination status is asked to call Health Link Alberta at 1-866-408-5465 before visiting a hospital or clinic.

Next meeting in Calgary Nov. 12

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Nov. 12, starting at 10 a.m., at **Calgary Christian Secondary School**, 5029 26 Ave. SW, Calgary.