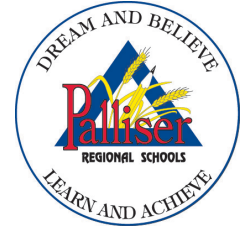


# Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

September 17, 2013



## And that's a wrap for this board!

The Board of Trustees of Palliser Regional Schools held its regular monthly meeting at Palliser Centre in Lethbridge. Trustee Esther Willms was absent due to illness.

This was the final meeting of the board before the school board elections Oct. 21.

Nomination day is Monday, Sept. 23. The returning officer shall receive nominations at Palliser Regional Schools Central Office in Lethbridge (#101, 3305 18 Avenue North) between 10 a.m. and noon on nomination day.

## Trustees attend start-up celebrations

Trustees shared their recent activities in their roundtable discussion, including attending a number of initial school council meetings, the division's opening day celebrations in Vulcan Aug. 29, and various meet-the-teacher evenings and welcome back events.

Trustee Joe Watson said meet-the-teacher evening at Dorothy Dalglish School in Picture Butte filled the gym. Chair Don Zech attended a welcome back barbecue in Coalhurst, an event that brings together staff and families from both the elementary and high school.

Trustees Jean Mrak, Colleen Deitz, Esther Willms and Chairman Don Zech attended celebrations to kick off Calgary Christian School's 50th anniversary. Events are planned throughout the year.

Trustees discussed this year's Wall of Fame induction ceremony and opening day celebrations. The Board said it was one of the best events yet.

## Enrolment hits 7,400 for first time

Superintendent Kevin Gietz and Associate Superintendent (Human Resources) Kevin Garinger updated the board on early enrolment figures. The division's enrolment was up from last year and up from projections, with more than 7,400 students from kindergarten through Grade 12, the largest number of students in Palliser history.

"School start has been excellent, it really has," Gietz said. "Thank you to the team in Central Office and the principals."

For the first time this year, the Administrators'

Association — principals, vice-principals and Central Office administrators — met in late August before students returned, rather than early in September, Gietz said.

Garinger said Palliser's First Nations enrolment, students who attend school in Milo or Arrowwood but live on Siksika First Nation, was down by seven to 40. Enrolment from Siksika was affected by June flooding which displaced many families and washed out a bridge linking Siksika to Arrowwood. Families attending Brant Christian School, many of whom live in High River, were also affected by the flood.

Garinger said he continues to monitor the numbers and address staffing needs as required. Palliser's official enrolment, which is used to determine Palliser's student funding, is based on student numbers on Sept. 30.

Gietz said space continues to be an issue at Jennie Emery Elementary School where numbers are projected to continue to rise. A fifth kindergarten class was opened this year at JEES, using space attached to the library. Coalhurst Elementary School also is full.

## Review of master agreements with society boards continues

Dale Backlin, Associate Superintendent (Education Services), provided the board an update on his discussions with society representatives at Brant Christian School and Menno Simons Christian School, to review the original master agreements that brought these formerly private schools into the public system as faith-based alternative programs.

Brant Christian School first joined Palliser in 2005-2006, with Menno Simons joining a year later.

Each of the master agreements with the societies at faith-based alternative schools is being reviewed now that considerable time has passed since they were initially negotiated.

## Next meeting Oct. 29 in Lethbridge

The newly elected board will hold its organizational meeting, followed by a regular board meeting, on Oct. 29, in Lethbridge. The organizational meeting begins at 9 a.m. with the regular meeting to follow.

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