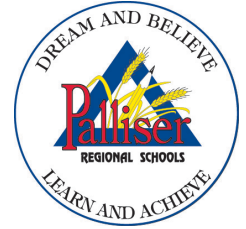


Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting

March 18, 2014



Board meets at Kate Andrews High

The Board of Trustees of Palliser Regional Schools held its regular monthly meeting at Kate Andrews High School, Coaldale, on March 18, the second of four meetings this year to be held in schools. The board's next regular meeting is at 9 a.m., April 8, at Noble Central School in Nobleford. The May regular meeting will start at 10 a.m., May 13 at Calgary Christian Secondary School, Calgary.

Trustee Esther Willms was absent from the meeting.

Dorothy Dalglish Principal says school review process helps improve school

The board welcomed Dorothy Dalglish School Principal Sherrie Shuttleworth to the meeting to share her school's response to a school review conducted in April 2013.

Shuttleworth described the school review process as positive as it confirmed the things the school is doing well.

"I just wanted to say 'thank you' because it does help us at school," she said.

Shuttleworth said students at the elementary school in Picture Butte have adopted a pledge that Dorothy Dalglish "should be place where all students feel safe and treat each other with respect." The work to enhance the safe and caring learning environment includes reminding all students that expectations for their conduct on the school bus is the same as inside the school, review of policy and procedures related to discipline and creation of school documents to clarify expectations and outcomes.

The school adopted the Dare to Care program at the start of the year, a program aimed at addressing bullying, and that has made a positive difference, she said. Students have also been part of The Leader in Me program, which is based on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.

She said Dorothy Dalglish students have access to a number of clubs, including cooking, geocaching, crochet, scrapbooking, minivolleyball and minibasketball.

To improve communication with parents, Shuttleworth said the school is sharing more information about learning

outcomes in the school newsletter, and giving parents more flexibility with parent-teacher interviews by allowing more or less time as the parent feels he/she needs. Regular phone calls home, notes in agendas, and notes written by students to their parents are also used regularly to enhance communication.

She said she provides a weekly memo to staff and the school continues to encourage parents to be part of school council as an effective way of connecting with the school.

Palliser Board Vice-Chair Don Zech congratulated Shuttleworth on significantly improved academic results being reported from Dorothy Dalglish.

School closure process exemption granted as GCA prepares to leave Palliser

The board received a letter from Education Minister Jeff Johnson granting Palliser an exemption from school closure regulations as Glenmore Christian Academy reverts to private school status for 2014-15. In November, the Glenmore Christian Academy Educational Society served Palliser notice of its intent to end its partnership with the board.

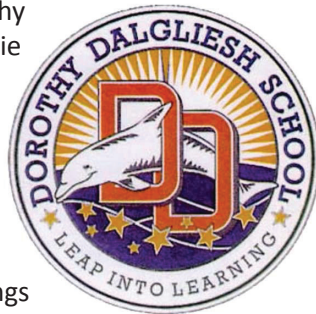
The minister's letter clears the way for Glenmore Christian Academy to leave Palliser without the usual closure process that would include a public meeting to discuss the closure. Under typical school closure circumstances, such a meeting is intended to give the public opportunity to influence a board's decision about the fate of a school being considered for closure. In this case, the society has made its decision known and no amount of discussion can sway the decision.

Trustees discussed the regret they feel.

"There is a sense of loss for us and for the staff at Glenmore," said Vice-Chair Don Zech, who served as the trustee for Glenmore for several years. "We are sorry to see them go."

Glenmore Christian Academy joined Palliser in 2008-09. In a meeting to announce the decision to leave Palliser, a society representative had said the school's founding church wishes to re-exert control over the school, prompting the return to private school status. The school, located in south Calgary, has about 700 students from grades 1-9.

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



Trustee appointed to rec board

The board passed a motion making Trustee Robert Strauss the Palliser representative on the Town of Vulcan Recreation Committee.

Alberta Ed encourages long-term commitment to international program

The board was joined via Skype by Carole Pelee, International Education Manager with Alberta Education. Pelee co-ordinated an Alberta Education trip to China recently, and Palliser Superintendent Kevin Gietz and Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard participated.

Pelee said she was quite impressed that Palliser's senior leadership participated in the mission because that buy-in from trustees and administration is critical to success when starting a new international student program.

She said recruitment of students from other countries is just one small part of international education. Other elements include student and teacher exchanges, teacher development programs and other initiatives to encourage global citizenship.

The China trip saw several jurisdictions from Alberta presenting to parents, as well as to agents who help parents enrol in international programs.

Alberta Education has an employee in China dedicated to promoting education in Alberta, and has support from other staff in trade offices in other international markets.

Pelee said it will require a long-term commitment to build a successful international student program.

During the trip, Palliser signed agreements to work with three agencies in China.

Palliser set to migrate to Google domain

Palliser Regional Schools staff are increasingly working in a Google environment to give students access to a powerful and growing suite of tools to support education, said the administrator overseeing Palliser's Technology Services.

Ken Garinger, also principal of County Central High School in Vulcan, said a complete migration to Google will be completed by April 7.

The move will give students and staff access to cloud storage accessible to any device from anywhere with Internet connection, a more flexible option than what students have on a hosted server. The move to Google Apps for Education also give students and staff access to better tools for collaboration and communication than they have now.

A website to introduce users to the many features of

Google has been created and linked to Palliser's website at www.pallisersd.ab.ca

Palliser staff email will continue as firstname.lastname@pallisersd.ab.ca, Garinger said. The transition will mean that access to Palliser email will not be available on the weekend of April 5-6.



KAHS students raising money to build school in developing world

Students from Kate Andrews High School presented the board an overview of their We Create Change program. Inspired by We Day, an event encouraging youth activism, the students have been raising money to build a school in the developing world.

Free the Children, the driving force behind We Day and We Create Change, is hoping to build 200 schools this year in developing nations in honour of Nelson Mandela.

Students Alison Lee and Kayley Dueck spoke on behalf of the 42 student who are part of the campaign. So far, the group has raised about \$6,800 toward a goal of \$10,000.

Last year, a We Create Change program raised \$4,300 toward providing clean water to people in countries like Kenya.

Board reinforces need to deal with concerns directly, not anonymously

Palliser's Board of Trustees unanimously passed a motion reconfirming its practice of dealing with signed letters of concern, and handling issues through existing policies and procedures and appropriate lines of authority.

The issue was raised after a trustee received an anonymous letter.

Trustees said they can't entertain or act on an anonymous letter because doing so would open up

every teacher, trustee and staff member in Palliser to the possibility of facing anonymous complaints. They expressed frustration that there's no way to offer help to someone if they don't provide their name.

According to board policy and practice, when a concern arises, the matter is to be first raised with the individual with whom a person has a concern. If not resolved, the concern can be escalated to that person's immediate superior, and on up through the organizational chart.

Error spotted in audited statement

An error on Palliser's 2013 audited financial statements has been identified and will be corrected in the 2014 audit.

Dale Backlin, Acting Corporate Treasurer, said Alberta Education noticed the error in how a portion of Palliser's unrestricted surplus was reported. The classification error led to an overstatement of the division's accumulated operating surplus and an understatement of the division's investment in capital assets. The bottom line of Palliser's financial position was not changed.

Board defers decision on fees while seeking budget clarification

The Board held off making a decision about its current fee structure until bigger questions about the 2014-15 budget are answered.

Trustees were asked to consider whether to reinstate a \$39 fee for Grade 1-6 students, a fee the division has waived since 2002 when a BSE crisis in the livestock industry hit the southern Alberta economy. The board still gives schools the equivalent of \$39 per 1-6 student from operating funds to its elementary schools but it does not collect the fee from families. The fees for Grade 7-9 students of \$49 and 10-12 students of \$59 have not been increased in years.

Superintendent Kevin Gietz suggested trustees hold off making a decision about school fees until questions are answered about the division's budget for next year. In the provincial budget announcement earlier this month, the province said there would be "mitigation funding" for school division's that had a decrease in enrolment. Gietz said he thought that would apply to Palliser which is facing the loss of 700 students as Glenmore Christian Academy reverts to private school status. The board had earlier submitted a request to the minister seeking enrolment decline funding to transition the division through the loss of these students.

Gietz said he was planning to meet with Alberta Education officials on the issue, and the board said it would seek a meeting with the minister to discuss the matter as well.

CHS, Master's calendars approved

The board received and approved 2014-15 school calendars from Coalhurst High School, Master's Academy and Master's College. Calendars are to be posted on the individual school websites for ease of reference by parents and students.

Work on health and safety continues

Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard updated the board on Palliser's Occupational Health and Safety training and planning. Meetings between Central Office Facility Services and school staff to address safety are being held at each school site. The division has also invested in "Public School Works" software for data collection, training and system-wide accountability regarding safety.

Palliser buys portables at Sunnyside

Palliser's board voted in favour of purchasing the portable classrooms at Sunnyside School from Alberta Infrastructure for \$1. The portables will continue to serve the students at Sunnyside, located just a few minutes drive from North Lethbridge. Palliser had received a letter from Alberta Infrastructure asking whether the division was interested in purchasing the units.

Work begins on \$8.2-million modernization of Noble Central School

A request for proposals for architectural consultant services has been issued for the Noble Central School modernization. The request for proposals closes at 4 p.m., March 28. Details are online [here](#).

Associate Superintendent (Education Services) Pat Rivard, who oversees Facility Services, said nearly \$8.2 million has been approved for the modernization. Furnishing and equipment for the facility will add to that total.

A web page on Noble Central's website has been established to keep staff, students and the community updated on the modernization project. The address is <http://noblecentralschool.ca/modernization>.

NEXT MEETING: 9 a.m., April 8, at Noble Central School in Nobleford

Find agendas, minutes and highlights online at <http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/meeting-information>