



# 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

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### Highlights of the Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, April 17, 2018

#### Safe and Caring policy draft presented

Palliser Regional Schools Board of Trustees heard how Policy 16: Safe and Caring and Inclusive and Working Communities has been updated, and reviewed the proposed revisions and draft administrative procedures. The draft policy and supporting procedures were to be shared further with school administrators before they are brought back to the Board for further discussion in May.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll explained the province had very specific expectations as far as the language used, and the draft reflects those. Although each school already had a student code of conduct, he said a division-wide code has now been created, as required by Alberta Education.

“We want to make sure all our students feel welcome and all students feel secure,” said Driscoll.

#### Self-regulation in-service for trustees

Director of Learning Shane Cranston and Behaviour Support Specialist Karen Braun shared with trustees a pilot project involving four schools on the use of self-regulation, a process for understanding and managing stress in students.

Trustees heard that 70 per cent of mental health problems have their onset during childhood or adolescence. Self-regulation is not only for troubled students, however, but a process that can be used by all students to determine the causes of stress, reduce the causes of stress where possible, and better handle the stress that remains.

Each of the pilot schools received introductory sessions and 10 lunch and learn sessions for staff. A follow-up survey showed very favourable results as far as staff better understanding the process and its benefits.

#### Accountability Reports

Director of Learning Shane Cranston provided trustees with a report on inclusive education. Inclusion is not just about learners with special needs, but an approach that embraces diversity and learner differences and promotes equal opportunities for all.

His team includes 43 learning support teachers, 12 family school liaison counsellors, a behaviour support specialist and an educational psychologist, the latter of which is on a contract basis. They support students in their academic endeavours and wellness (particularly mental health), and build capacity in staff to support inclusive practices.

The October 2017 Alberta Education Accountability Pillar results show Palliser scores above the provincial average for student inclusion.

Acting Senior Director, Mike Nightingale also presented the human services accountability report, including the roles of those in his department. Succession planning for the division was also shared.

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