



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Board Planning Session

Superintendent Dave Driscoll provided an update on the mid-April Board Planning session in which Palliser's senior leadership team and Board of Trustees worked with school administrators to come up with a direction for the school division for years to come. He praised the depth of thought and passion displayed by those school administrators in helping to set division goals.

Working on that feedback, he said the two main goals which surfaced were the importance of both literacy and numeracy, and the need to provide supports for the wellness of both students and staff. The senior leadership team is now working on possible wording of those goals, with a draft to be shared with Trustees and school administrators for their consideration. Once those goals have been set, they will work together on specific strategies to achieve them.

Bus Tender

Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey informed trustees that plans to purchase up to five new school buses each year will be scaled back this year to four, due to uncertainty over the delayed release of the provincial budget. In addition to three buses for the regular fleet, one motor coach-style bus will be purchased by Palliser's international program for pick-up and drop-off of students at the Calgary airport as well as any field trips during their stay.

That bus will have room to safely store luggage and could be made available to Palliser schools for lengthier trips and also be available for rent by outside schools or institutions. At a cost of about \$130,000, the purchase will be funded entirely by the international student program, added Durfey.

School Grounds Maintenance

The Board heard that Palliser will be hiring summer students and purchasing its own lawn mowing equipment in order to carry out school grounds maintenance in a more cost-efficient manner. Discussions will be had with community groups which have supplied some of that work at certain schools, said Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey, and if they are able to meet Palliser's criteria they can be retained.

The move is part of Palliser's ongoing commitment to maintain its facilities as a showcase for the communities they serve.

Board and Superintendent Evaluations

A subcommittee of the Board of Trustees has been formed and tasked with coming up with proposals for the mandated evaluation of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools. Those proposals, which will look at the process involved as well as the possible use of facilitators, will be brought back to the Board as a whole for further discussion.

Board Chair Robert Strauss noted there has been a lot of changes both on the Board and in Palliser's senior leadership team. Now that everyone has had an opportunity to become acclimatized to their new roles, he said it is appropriate to discuss evaluations.

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

Division Calendars

Palliser's senior leadership team will be looking for input from Trustees as to guiding principles and values to be used when designing divisional school calendars in the future. Superintendent Dave Driscoll told the Board it has become apparent there is a lack of parameters available to guide staff when putting together calendars, other than those needed to meet contractual agreements.

While diversity is something that Palliser embraces and certain accommodations must be made as to the needs of each individual school community, Driscoll said there should be rationale behind calendar decisions other than 'it's always been done this way.' Decisions should always be made based on what is best for the students.

Once draft guidelines have been arrived at, they will be shared with stakeholders, including School Council members, for their feedback.