



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

Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019

Policy 19: Student Transportation

Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey reviewed the wording of the policy and clarified the intent. A standard for busing must be set that supports schools of choice for parents and yet ensures that small, rural schools are viable.

Administration is recommending that the policy be accepted as presented but that the fee schedule be reviewed and that it be implemented for the 2020-2021 school year. They also recommend that the changes to the existing bus routes be implemented on January 1, 2020. This will give parents the opportunity to plan and to provide input to the fees. The fee schedule will be reviewed in the spring and communities will have the opportunity to have input before they are implemented.

The draft fee schedule will be brought to the Board for discussion in November. Input will be gathered from school administrators, parents and the communities. The transportation department will have the official stops identified and will share them with the affected families. The transportation supervisor will make arrangements with the families of the existing stops to ensure that they are aware that additional students will be getting the bus as of January 1, 2020.

Literacy Annual Report

The Board heard from Director Adam Browning about increased professional learning opportunities for staff in the area of literacy and new partnerships to promote literacy, including the addition of Summer Reading Tents. He also spoke about the work of Palliser's literacy team and a change of focus to a more holistic vision of literacy.

Although the school division has enjoyed many successes in the area of literacy over the years, Browning said there is room for improvement and that includes starting first with 'beliefs' rather than 'resources,' and planning strategies based on that.

Wellness Annual Report

Director Shane Cranston shared with trustees Palliser's Wellness Goal, one of three priorities that were identified by school administrators at last year's planning session. The goal states: "Palliser students will become literate in mental health, gaining knowledge and understanding that will provide them confidence and support in their pursuit of living a healthy life."

Although the school division has made significant progress in areas such as the nutrition program and mental health support and resources, he said Accountability Pillar data shows more work needs to be done in making stronger connections between students and their respective school.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll said when it comes to the mental health goal, the question is how the system can support schools to support students. The strategies schools choose to use to implement that goal will be based on their own needs and research, he added.

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

Nutrition Program Support

Trustees received information regarding confirmation from Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange that the new government will maintain funding for the school nutrition program, with \$15.5 million to match the support provided last year. The nutrition program in Palliser Regional Schools served about 630 students every day last year, with another 440 receiving a snack. Some schools offered both breakfast and lunch.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019