



Palliser Regional Schools

Palliser Centre

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Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019

International Exchange Students

The Board heard from five Kate Andrews High School students and a chaperone who recently spent two weeks in Ukraine as part of an international exchange. They spoke about some of the challenges, including communication, and differences between that country and home, but mostly highlighted some of their favourite moments, the warm reception they received from their homestay families, and the great learning opportunities the trip provided.

Board Chair Robert Strauss thanked the group for their presentation and said such exchanges are valuable in that they give all involved a chance to grow and appreciate each other's culture and lifestyle. While this was just Palliser Regional Schools' second exchange trip – the first was last year, involving Chile, Director of Learning Tom Hamer said more opportunities will be announced soon.

Financial Updates

The Board approved the audited financial statements for 2018-19 and accepted the auditor's report, with Chair Robert Strauss thanking Palliser staff and members of the Audit Committee – including public members Michelle Lutz and Tony Montana – for their efforts.

Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey also provided trustees with a financial update for 2019-2020, which forecasts a deficit of \$815,800. He explained that much of that deficit is due to a 305 per cent, unexpected increase in Palliser's property insurance bill. The Board Chair thanked administration for its foresight and the conservative assumptions it relied on in preparing Palliser's spring budget without benefit of a provincial budget at the time. While tough decisions still had to be made, it negated the necessity of making impactful changes mid-school year.

Student Transportation

Trustees approved a transportation fee schedule for students attending a school of choice rather than their designated school. The out-of-boundary fees are broken down into those for children who would qualify for busing to their designated school, and those who would not qualify. Secretary-Treasurer Dexter Durfey noted all such requests are dependent on there being room on the bus, and pick-up at a designated site.

The Board had earlier determined changes to existing bus routes would be implemented as of Jan. 1, 2020, while the fee schedule will not go into effect until the 2020-2021 school year. The transportation supervisor will discuss with affected families any route changes and the fee schedule prior to implementation. A fee schedule had been discussed by the Board prior to the government's announcement that bus fees could be increased mid-year following release of the provincial budget.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019

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