

# BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: SEPTEMBER 20, 2022



## Board of Trustees Meets with Minister of Education

The Board of Trustees was pleased to accept an invitation to meet face to face with the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, on September 1, 2022, in Taber, AB. The Board brought forward two topics, mental health services and supports in rural Alberta followed by financial matters pertaining to funding and grants. The Minister addressed the Board's concern about the lack of mental health supports available for rural schools and assured that she has been working with other ministries for collaboration and support. The Minister spoke about the grant opportunities available for mental health supports and suggested that grant money will be available for new initiatives and pilot projects. The Board requested clarification and advance notice on any pending changes to the bridging grant and was assured by the Minister that the ministry is aware of the complexities and is making plans to address them. The Board thanks the Minister for the opportunity to meet to discuss these topics.

## School Calendar and Professional Development for Staff

Professional Development (PD) Days are designated in the school-year calendar and are aligned with the school scheduling parameters set by Alberta Education which considers the number of mandated teacher working days, instructional hours, and assignable time. Final calendars for each site may look different as schools add PD days based on their own bell schedule. The division has seven site-based days, three of which are scheduled in August and the other four throughout the year, two of which are Teacher Directed Days. Sites set the content of these days to align with their school goals or to work with topics they are passionate about. There are three Divisional PD Days in a school year; Opening Day, Summit Day, and a third district-wide day in the late winter/early spring. Division days are days of staff collaboration for professional and personal development with content set by the Senior Leadership Team in consultation with administrative and teaching staff. Parents may reference the school calendar on each school's website. The divisional calendars for the 2022-2023 school year are available on the division's website through the following links: [South Schools Calendar](#) and [North Schools Calendar](#).

## Division Sets Plans in Motion for National Truth and Reconciliation Day

Plans are in place for recognizing National Truth and Reconciliation Day in the division. As September 30, 2022, is a non-operational day, schools will recognize National Truth and Reconciliation Day on Thursday, September 29, or Monday, October 3. Central Office will pay recognition on Monday, October 3. In the past, the focus was on one day, but now recognition will take place throughout the week and throughout the year as schools build connections with elders and knowledge keepers. Throughout the division, teachers are collaborating and sharing many great ideas and activities to recognize this day which includes such initiatives as land-based learning activities taking place during a Professional Development activity on Friday, September 23. The Board looks forward to welcoming to the division a new Indigenous Services Coordinator whose work with all schools will be valued and appreciated.

The next meeting of the Palliser Board of Trustees is October 11, 2022.

### CONTACT US

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