



MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PALLISER SCHOOL DIVISION REGULAR MEETING

BT20230509

DATE: May 9, 2023

9:00 a.m - Palliser Meeting Room C

Trustees in Attendance: Trustee Lorelei Bexte, Chair
Trustee Tony Montana, Vice-Chair
Trustee Debbie Laturnus
Trustee Mike Oliver
Trustee Sharon Rutledge
Trustee Louise Schmidt

Staff in Attendance: Dave Driscoll, Superintendent
Dexter Durfey, Secretary Treasurer
Tom Hamer, Deputy Superintendent
Audrey Kluin, Associate Superintendent
Wesley Lebeau, Communications Officer

Recording: Michelle Taylor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Lorelei Bexte, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

One item was added to the agenda, 8.3 Capital Request.

Resolution # BT20230509 - 01

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montana

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

3. MOVE TO *IN-CAMERA*

Resolution # BT20230509 - 02

Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver

That the meeting move *In-Camera*, at 9:02 a.m., pursuant to Section S64(3) of the Education Act, and Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of

Chairperson: 

Secretary Treasurer: 

Privacy Act, and Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter S-3 and amendments thereto, to discuss Privileged Information with regards to identified In-Camera Items.

CARRIED

MOVE OUT OF IN-CAMERA

Resolution #BT20230509 - 03

Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt

That the meeting moves out of *in-camera* at 10:11 a.m.

CARRIED

4. MOTIONS ARISING FROM IN-CAMERA

There was one motion arising from *in-camera*.

Resolution # BT20230509 - 04

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montina

That the Calgary Islamic School Calendar be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Resolution # BT20230509 - 05

Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt

That the Minutes of the April 18, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Palliser School Division be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1. English Language Learners Accountability Report

Dr. Adam Browning, Director of Learning, presented the English Language Learners Accountability Report. The Highlights from 2022-2023 include:

- 3,525 identified English Language Learners (ELLs) are enrolled in Palliser schools. This is an increase of 220 students from 2021-2022. There has been a steady increase in ELL students over the past five years.
- 10.90 FTE teaching staff and 14,155 support staff hours were allocated specifically for ELL support. There has been a steady increase in Learning Support Teachers since 2019.
- A 0.5 FTE ELL coordinator has been added for additional support.
- A language and literacy approach, Sheltered Instruction, has been implemented. Shelter Instruction is a pedagogical approach that can be used specifically to support both English Language Learners (ELL) and general academic literacy, focusing on integrating language and content instruction to ensure that students are provided with access to grade-level content while developing English language proficiency. This approach is

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



especially relevant to how students are instructed to understand content and language demands within content areas (social studies, math, science, etc.).

2023-2024 Key Actions

- Continued focus on key areas of literacy and language: oral language and vocabulary, content area literacy, and balanced literacy.
- Collaborative professional development opportunities with shared goals and instructional programs, including preparation for teachers for expected changes to the Alberta ESL Benchmarks.
- Development of additional literacy and language assessments for divisions 1 and 2 students and a division-wide writing assessment in conjunction with our ELL and Literacy teams.

Leadership

- Professional learning opportunities planned directly with administrators and learning support teachers on North and South ELL teams to support schools and teachers working together on collaborative goals.
- Collaborative professional learning opportunities with a focused approach to new ELL reporting requirements from Alberta Education.
- 15 administrators and learning support teachers trained in Sheltered Instruction to support our overall implementation of this approach.

Professional Learning

- Increased staff capacity through the literacy team and within schools with large ELL populations to support professional development across the division.
- Continued professional learning opportunities in conjunction with other school divisions and the two provincial consortia (SAPDC and CRC) specific to English language learning.
- Focused professional learning opportunities related to English language learning to support assessment and intervention (including the revised Alberta English as an Additional Language Benchmarks), Sheltered Instruction, and oral language development.

Challenges

- In response to Alberta Education's implementation of more rigorous reporting requirements specifically for ELLs, the division has aligned processes with these requirements and has supported teachers with the changes.

Chairperson:

Louise E Bente

Secretary Treasurer:

[Signature]

- We have received positive feedback from our staff on the revised Alberta English as an Additional Language Benchmarks, however there is the need for a digital reporting platform to accommodate the changes, but the finalized version has yet to be completed by Alberta Education.
- The implementation of the revised benchmarks will continue to be optional for at least next school year.
- Analysis of Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and Diploma Exam (DIPs) results over multiple years, continue to show some variance in the achievement of ELL and non-ELL students. Although we are seeing improvement in early reading achievement and some improvement in the variance of PATs and DIPs results, this is a protracted challenge to support academic language development for ELLs.

ELL Assessment Trends

- Continued growth in the overall percentage of ELL students who demonstrate performance at-grade in reading achievement.

Dr. Browning was thanked for his presentation and for his passion for the work he does. The care he takes to support students is appreciated.

Resolution # BT20230509 - 06

Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver

That the English Language Learners Accountability Report is received as information.

CARRIED

6.2. Milo School Presentation

The Board was pleased to welcome four students and Principal Dakota Mattson from Milo School to the meeting. The students were part of a larger group of 12 students who traveled to Victoria in March 2023 for a Marine Biology Field Trip to explore BC's Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. The community was tremendous in supporting fundraising efforts and the students are grateful for the opportunity to travel to discover and study marine life. The trip was a great opportunity for students to have hands-on experience with marine biology, forest ecology, oceanography, sailing and navigation, geography, teamwork and leadership. They shared some highlights of their trip including learning about many types of sea creatures and plants, seeing sea lions and orca whales, kayaking and hiking. The students have shared their experiences with their fellow students at Milo School and a trip in three years time is already in the planning stages.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



The students were thanked for their presentation and after, enjoyed lunch with the Board and a tour of the Palliser Education Center.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1. *SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Superintendent's monthly activities report.

7.2. *SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Secretary-Treasurer's monthly activities report.

7.3. *ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Associate Superintendent's monthly activities report.

7.4. *DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, LEARNING SERVICES REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Deputy Superintendent's monthly activities report.

7.5. *TRUSTEE REPORTS

Attached to the agenda were the Trustees' monthly activities reports.

7.6. *ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ASBA) ZONE 6 UPDATE

Attached to the agenda was the monthly ASBA Zone 6 update.

7.7. *SCHOOL FIELD TRIP REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the list of current out of province and international field trips.

8. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1. Assurance Framework 2021-2025, Year Three - Education Plan

Alberta's Assurance Framework is about building public trust and confidence that the education system is meeting the needs of students and enabling their success. Education partners throughout the system must demonstrate they are meeting their responsibilities. The Palliser School Division has developed the Education Plan, a summary of the goals and objectives for the division as part of the Assurance Framework, 2021-2025, Year Three. Deputy Superintendent Tom Hamer presented the Education Plan.

Resolution # BT20230509 - 07

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

That the Board approve the Palliser School Division Education Plan as part of the Assurance Framework 2021-2025, Year Three as presented.

CARRIED

There was a break for lunch from 12:01 to 12:45 p.m.

8.2. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement was discussed at the recent ASBA Zone 6 and divisions were asked to explore two questions: 1). how do we engage our stakeholders? and 2). what is the cost to the division? In Palliser, stakeholder engagement occurs through School Councils, the Council of School Councils, Board Meetings and Board Highlights, Learning Services reporting, local news coverage, social media channels and the division website. A discussion about stakeholder engagement took place. Stakeholder engagement is a key portion of governance and as such, the Board will move forward with the creation of a Stakeholder Engagement Committee and will work with the Communications Officer.

8.3. Capital Request

A capital expenditure request from Facilities was put forward to the Board.

Resolution # BT20230509 - 08

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montana

That the Board approves the purchase of one all-wheel drive (AWD) cube van, a used $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck fleet vehicle, and two lawn mowers, and authorizes the purchase of a new AWD cube van to be in service for the next fiscal year. In addition, the Board directs Administration to develop a capital replacement plan for Facilities Services.

CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:

