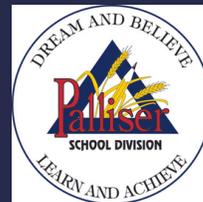


# Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: June 13, 2023



## Annual Budget Report

The Board passed the 2023/24 annual budget and is committed to ensuring manageable class sizes and sufficient educational assistant support. There were no cuts to teachers or support staff.

The budget also reflects a commitment to student wellness and mental health that has been built over the last few years. However, the Division faces escalating insurance costs, grid movement, as well as a significant increase in employee benefit premiums resulting in high operating and maintenance costs.

The Division projects a deficit of 1.6 M.

## Palliser Off Campus

Palliser Off Campus allows students to explore, experience, and engage with career pathways and learning opportunities. The 'Off Campus' team asks students 'What do you love to do' instead of 'What are you going to do after school'. This year the program expanded its culinary course offerings, Farm Education (at Picture Butte High School), 3 new hydroponic systems, and developed an audio-visual course.

The team continued the work of solidifying local partnerships with post-secondary institutes and local businesses. Palliser School Division also received a joint grant to expand dual credit opportunities by establishing the Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute. See more [information here](#).

The Division continues to receive incredibly positive feedback from students and families who experience opportunities through Palliser Off Campus.

## Wellness Report

This was a big year for mental health in Palliser School Division. A Mental Health Grant allowed the Division to implement key supports to address the needs of all students.

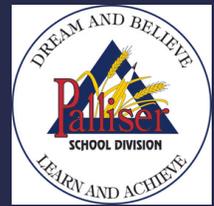
The Division continued to expand our staff support with a Wellness Navigator, Family School Liaison Counsellor, and Making Connections Workers. Every school in the division is also supported by a 'Health Champion' who helps lead staff, students, and the community through positive wellness practices.

All schools submit a Wellness plan each year. Input from students, families, and communities is appreciated and encouraged.



# Board Meeting Highlights:

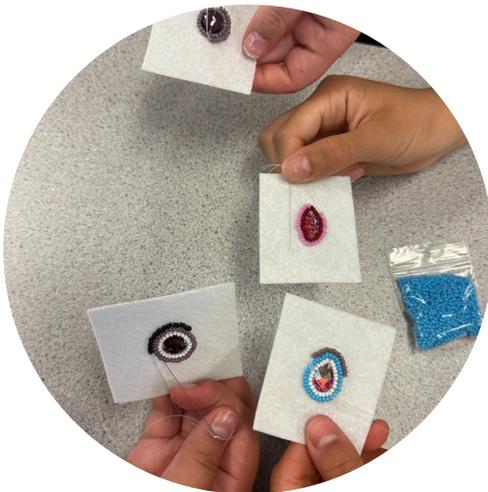
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: June 13, 2023



## Inclusion

Palliser School Division continues the journey towards a new vision and mission of inclusion: "All children can learn and excel given opportunity, effective teaching, and appropriate support. Inclusion of all students in school communities is based on the philosophy of equity, belonging, and the worth and dignity of individuals". During the school year, our staff took part in many professional development sessions regarding Inclusive Education.

Next year the Division will focus on updating Individual Program plans. Overall there has been a measurable and observable paradigm shift in the Division towards a vision of ensuring that our schools have a place for every student and that each student has a purpose.



## Indigenization

Palliser School Division is using some of the calls to action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The intention of the Division is to build Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing into all areas of the curriculum and offer land based learning opportunities as well as exploration of knowledge with local elders. It is a priority for the Division to recognize the culture and identity indigenous members at the land Palliser schools are located on.

The Division continues to see growth in the numbers of indigenous students registering in our kindergarten programs. There are also academic success stories to celebrate for the self-identified indigenous students who continue their education with Palliser School Division.



**The next meeting of the Palliser Board of Trustees is August 22, 2023**

### CONTACT US

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