

# Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: January 16, 2024



## Transportation Report

Bus service is probably top of mind for many families right now. The Palliser School Division operates a fleet of buses and vehicles that has significantly modernized over the past decade. With the average age of buses now at 7.5 years, down from an 11-year average a decade ago, the division demonstrates its commitment to maintaining a relatively young and efficient fleet.

62 daily bus routes transport 2,200 students across the Division, covering 1.9 km annually. David Shaw credits his drivers for the reliable service his team offers our students.

The department has some significant challenges as well. New eligibility parameters for busing mean that 300 new students now qualify for busing. Two new routes have been added in Coaldale to handle the influx. However, due to the funding structure, our Division will receive less funding per student, which puts the Division in a difficult financial position.



## OH&S Update

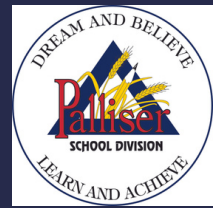
Our Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) team is collaborating with our schools to maximize safety for both staff and students. This involves developing and practicing emergency plans through drills. Importantly, these drills will be conducted during 'less than ideal' times.

This approach is designed to ensure that our staff and students are prepared to follow best practices and procedures under various weather conditions and at different times, enhancing our preparedness for real emergencies.



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## 2024/2025 Division Calendar Approved by Board

The Board approved draft Division calendars for the 2024/2025 school year for our South, North and Islamic schools.

The 2024-25 divisionally approved calendar allows for three days for teachers to collaborate, plan and learn together before the school year even begins. There is also one day where the division learns together as a whole, often with a guest speaker who helps set the direction for the year.

During the school year, two more Fridays are dedicated to Palliser Staff having opportunities to learn from one another across the division. These days are yellow on the calendar and take place in September and March.

Additionally, recognizing the importance for schools to work on their own priorities and goals, three site-based days are scheduled by the Division. These days are blue on the calendar and take place in October, November and May.

Now that the Board has approved the Division calendars, school administrators can consult with their staff and community to determine a local calendar. This may include additional school-based professional development days, shown in purple on the calendar, to continue to work on local priorities and goals, or a request may be made for additional non-student, non-staff days, also referred to as non-operational days.

The calendars can be viewed on our Division website:  
<https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/schools/school-calendar-information>



**The next regular Board Meeting will be on February 13, 2024**

### CONTACT US

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