

Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: May 13, 2025



Inclusive Education Update

The Board reviewed progress on the division's multi-year strategy to strengthen inclusive education. This year's focus has been on fully implementing a new Individual Program Plan (IPP) system and providing professional learning that helps staff design lessons for all learners. Feedback from teachers and Learning Support Teachers has been positive, noting the new IPP platform is more efficient and better supports student voice and family involvement.

The division has also expanded specialized supports, such as the Coaldale Outreach. While pressures like funding challenges and system coordination remain, the overall cultural shift toward inclusion is showing strong results, with staff more equipped to meet a wide range of student needs and families more engaged in the planning process.

Indigenous Education Update

The Board received an important update on Indigenous education, focused on how schools are supporting the success of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) students. Data shared in the presentation showed that Indigenous students who have been enrolled in the division longer tend to achieve higher results on provincial tests and literacy assessments, suggesting that consistent support over time makes a meaningful difference.



The report also covered trends in high school completion, drop-out, and transition rates to post-secondary education. While progress is being made, the division is continuing to strengthen both school and division-level strategies to boost outcomes. This includes responding directly to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, ensuring that Indigenous perspectives and needs are part of everyday learning across the system.

Fiscal Update

The Division's financial update shows a positive shift, with the projected deficit for 2024–2025 reduced from \$1.36 million to approximately \$1.09 million, thanks to additional targeted funding received during the year. These funds, supporting areas like dual credit programming, enrollment growth, and fuel cost contingencies, have helped offset some key expenses. Facilities staff are also completing site audits to prioritize maintenance and safety needs, especially regarding roofs.

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CTS Trailer Program Update

The Board received an update on the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) trailers currently rotating among Coalhurst High School, Brant Christian School, and Noble Central School. These mobile shops are a vital way for students to gain hands-on skills in areas like woodworking and welding, especially in schools without permanent shop spaces. The trailers are well-used and highly valued by students, staff, and the wider school communities.

While there are some maintenance and staffing challenges, short and long-term recommendations are being developed, including rotating the trailers more efficiently, improving heating and air quality, and partnering with local trades or colleges. Overall, the trailers are a practical solution for offering experiential learning for Palliser's smaller schools.



Review of the Education Plan

Palliser's current Three-Year Education Plan, which launched in the 2023–2024 school year, was reviewed by the Board as it enters its second year. While no major revisions are planned at this time, some key updates were noted. Notably, the Division will discontinue the use of 'Our School' surveys, as they were found to overlap significantly with Alberta Education's existing surveys. Instead, schools will begin developing local surveys tailored to gather more meaningful and actionable feedback. The Mission, Vision and Values statements will also potentially change after the Board completes their strategic planning process. The Board will revisit the Education following the approval of the 2025–2026 budget.



Important note:

The time of the June 17th Board meeting has been changed to begin at 11:30 AM.

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The next regular Board Meeting will be on May 27, 2025