



FROM THE CHAIR

Highlights of the Board of Trustees

Meeting held Tuesday, September 20, 2011

- The Board of Trustees of Palliser Regional Schools met at Palliser Centre in Lethbridge September 20.
- The Board reviewed recommendations from Dale Backlin, Associate Superintendent (Education Services) for guiding agreements with neighbouring school divisions for transportation of students living in one jurisdiction but attending school in another. Palliser has a number of existing agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions that have been in place for some time. One jurisdiction may agree to “release” a student living within its boundaries to attend a school in a different jurisdiction. If release is granted, transportation funding can then follow the student to the neighbouring jurisdiction. In drafting agreements with neighbouring school divisions, the following guidelines were recommended to and accepted by the Board:
 - The agreement would be ongoing with a joint review of the agreement every five (5) years.
 - The agreement could be terminated by either party by giving notice in writing by April 1 of each year.
 - The transportation “release” remains in effect until that student is no longer a student in the “receiving” school division.
 - Students who have previously been released will be “grandfathered”.
 - Siblings of students already “released” would not require an individual transportation release from the “releasing” school division.
 - Parents of new students/families must request a transportation release from the “releasing” school division.
 - The “receiving” school division would annually (by September 15 of each year) provide to the “releasing” school division, the name and address, including legal land description, of those students not residing within its boundaries but attending a school within the “receiving” school division.
 - Transportation “release” requests from parents would be required on an individual basis. Group submissions would not be accepted.
 - The Superintendent would have the responsibility to approve or deny transportation “release” requests.
 - Parents would have the right to appeal the Superintendent’s decision to the Board.
 - Notice in regard to transportation release or rejection would be provided to the “receiving” school division and to the parent.
 - To ensure consideration prior to a school year, parents will be encouraged to provide request for transportation release no later than May 1.
- The Board accepted a revision to the Glenmore Christian Academy school calendar for the 2011-2012 school year. The Calgary school is in the middle of a major construction project and had planned to use Jan. 9-10, 2012 to move in to its new space. However, the construction schedule

***Together we will ensure learning success for all students
to develop their unique potential as caring citizens in a changing world.***

has changed and now moving day is expected Jan. 30-31, 2012. The Board granted this change which does not impact time allotted for student instruction at all.

- The Board received a presentation on a number of proposed adjustments to bus routes. The changes came after consultation with families and bus drivers. The Board discussed the need to rethink school start times which are often driving the early pickup times.
- The Board welcomed Heather Lee, whose daughter Alison competed in the Canada Wide Science Fair two years in a row. Last year, as a Grade 8 student from R.I. Baker Middle School in Coaldale, Alison won a silver medal in the high school category and a \$2,000 scholarship. As part of her trip to the nationals, Alison was able to see historic sites and take in a Major League Baseball game in Toronto. Mrs. Lee described to the Board the considerable effort it takes to compete at a national level, and she congratulated the trustees for their decision in June 2011 to provide guidelines for financial support of students attending national-level events. She credited former R.I. Baker science teacher Mike Davis, now working on Palliser's AISI project, for encouraging Alison's participation in the regional fair in Lethbridge, which led to the fantastic opportunities for Alison. The fair is open to students from Grades 4 through 12. For those who succeed at the national level, there are thousands of dollars available in scholarships. Mrs. Lee encouraged science teachers across Palliser to consider encouraging science fair participation as a viable opportunity for students of all types, not just academic superstars. The regional fair will be held in March 2012. This year's national event will be held in Prince Edward Island in May 2012.
- The Board received early enrolment numbers, presented by Associate Superintendent (Human Resources) Kevin Garinger. As of September 8th, Palliser had 6,622 from ECS to Grade 12. The ECS students include program unit funded preschoolers. The numbers were up slightly from budget projection overall. In particular, the ECS numbers were higher than expected, while numbers at the higher grades were slightly lower. Overall, the numbers are up slightly from last year's enrolment. The official enrolment number, on which Palliser's funding is based, is taken on September 30.
- The next meeting of the Board of Trustees and the annual organizational meeting will be held at Palliser Centre in Lethbridge on October 18, 2011.



Don Zech, Board Chair
Palliser Regional Schools