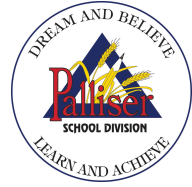


# BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING: MAY 25, 2021



## 2021-2022 Budget Approval

During the regular meeting of the Palliser Board of Trustees on May 25, 2021, the Palliser School Division Board of Trustees passed a motion to accept the 2021-2022 Budget as presented. The 2021-2022 budget will see services maintained at present levels but with a deficit projected to be approximately \$1.5 M dollars. The Board will request permission from the Minister to utilize its reserves to bring the budget to a balanced state. The Board is pleased that funding was maintained at the current rate but is concerned that funding for student growth and increases in costs are not being met and are putting a strain on the education system. Palliser is projecting modest student enrollment growth next year, this compiled with an 7.85% increase in the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan costs and the yearly staff salary grid increases have contributed to the deficit budget. The Board's utilization of its limited reserves for the 2021-2022 budget year is a short-term solution but the Board strongly believes that this approach will benefit Palliser students, families and staff following a very challenging school year and addresses the unknown factors as it enters into the school year next fall.

## English as a Second Language in Palliser

The Palliser School Division continues to see a rise in the number of English Language Learners across the entire division. There are almost 3,300 students identified this year which is an increase of 137 students over last year. This number is not reflective of the international students coming to study in Canada. Palliser leads the development of an early language assessment program that has been shared with other school divisions and with Alberta Education. Palliser schools and the Division work with multiple agencies to support new families coming to Canada. Palliser School Division celebrates the diversity of the people in its schools and provides professional learning opportunities for the staff to support the diversity.

## Inclusive Education and Wellness

The Palliser School Division has maintained a high level of service to students and families as the students have transitioned between learning at home and in-class learning during COVID. There has been successful capacity building through ongoing, virtual learning opportunities for both students, their families and Palliser staff. Schools continue to place strong emphasis on mental health promotion and prevention. Now, more than ever the collaboration between schools and community partnerships is essential in supporting student learning and wellness.



The next meeting of the Palliser Board of Trustees is June 15, 2021.

## CONTACT US

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