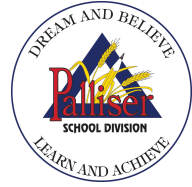


BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

REGULAR BOARD MEETING: JUNE 14, 2022



2022-2023 School Year Budget

The Board passed a motion to accept the 2022-2023 School Year Budget during a Special Meeting of the Board on May 24, 2022. The Board is pleased that classroom teacher numbers have been maintained with an emphasis on redistribution to areas of growth. With a continued focus on the division goal of mental wellness and the anticipated increase in demand for student wellness supports following the pandemic, the Board has identified inclusivity and mental health supports as key requirements moving forward. An investment of approximately \$975,000 above funding levels has been allocated for this endeavour, however, it is predicted that the inclusive education budget will continue to be in a deficit situation. Off-Campus opportunities, First Nations Metis and Inuit Perspectives, and Technology continue to also be areas of focus and support. Inflationary pressures, including CRA rate increases, yearly staff salary grid increases, and an increase in the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan costs continue to outpace provincial funding. These, compiled with projected modest student enrollment growth next year, have contributed to a deficit budget of \$735,354. The Board will request permission from the Minister to utilize its reserves to bring the budget to a balanced state. The Board's utilization of its limited reserves is a short-term solution but the Board strongly believes that this approach will benefit Palliser students, families, and staff, allowing the division to continue excellence in student learning opportunities.

Inclusive Education Accountability Report

Inclusive education focuses on building a culture of belonging for all students. Palliser School Division follows the vision of inclusion of all students in school communities which is based on the philosophy of equity, participation, and the worth and dignity of all individuals. The division believes all children can learn and reach their full potential given opportunity, effective teaching, and appropriate support. The goals, beliefs, and values of the division are represented by a multi-tiered response to intervention which allows for the support of all students. In the division, all staff support inclusivity. Specialized team members include classroom teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Educational Assistants, and speech pathologists in addition to external professionals within the southwest region with whom the division collaborates to meet the diverse needs of all students.

Dual Credit Accountability Report

Dual credit courses allow students to explore and find their passion. The Alberta Dual Credit Framework lays the foundation for school divisions to personalize students' high school experience and build on or help them discover their career paths or interests. Palliser School Division has partnered with several Alberta post-secondary institutions to offer engaging dual credit programs. In the 2021-2022 school year, there were 105 students enrolled in dual credit courses, earning around 700 credits. It is expected that there will be 150 students enrolled in dual credit courses in the next school year. Students who have completed dual credit courses report that courses are engaging and they experienced increased self-worth, appreciation for new responsibilities, independent learning, personal growth, and the positive impact of these courses on their future plans. Through taking dual credit courses, students gain a greater understanding of what they would like to study in post-secondary education and what is required and expected when studying at the post-secondary level.

The next meeting of the Palliser Board of Trustees is August 23, 2022.

CONTACT US

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