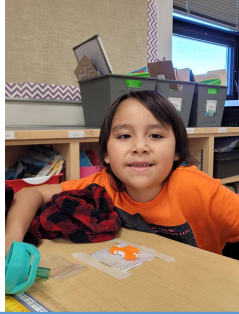


# BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: DECEMBER 13, 2022



## Early Learning Education

Palliser School Division's Early Learning Programs provide quality, caring, supportive, and play-based educational opportunities. There are 226 Early Learning Students registered for the 2022-2023 school year, higher than projected. As a dedicated group of committed individuals, the Early Learning Team, made up of Early Learning Educators, Learning Support Teachers, school administration, and multidisciplinary teams, is dedicated to serving children. The team faces current challenges posed by the increased number of students who need support, especially with speech and language. This school year, professional development opportunities provided for Early Learning Educators, Learning Support Teachers, and Educational Assistants are focused on early literacy and numeracy acquisition and in the new year, a professional development session on Autism Spectrum Disorder will be available to the Early Learning Team and division staff.

## Facility Services

Facility Services works to ensure a safe, efficient, organized, clean and comfortable environment where Palliser students can achieve their academic potential and staff can maximize their teaching efforts. Several projects completed throughout the division in the past year include the installation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone infrastructure, the installation of security cameras, upgrades to boiler systems, and concrete work for accessibility and improved safety. Schools use the Asset Planner system to submit service requests, allowing Facilities to efficiently track and prioritize requests, and ensuring the safety of students and staff at all times. The construction of the new Coaldale school is on schedule and notable progress has been made to the exterior. Interior walls are being erected, and electrical and mechanical rough-ins are in progress. The school is scheduled to open in the fall of 2024.

## International Student Program

There is a renewed interest in the International Student program following the pandemic. The demand has been great and the division has entered into a shared responsibility agreement with Prairie Rose School Division and Black Gold School Division. There has been significant growth in applications from several European, Asian, and South American countries. There are currently 12 schools hosting 144 students from 13 countries. A part-time homestay coordinator and an activity coordinator have been hired, with both positions being great additions to the ever-growing program. The application and registration process has already begun for the 2023-2024 school year and indications are that registrations will surpass pre-pandemic levels. Reciprocal exchange opportunities have been created for students from Chile and Japan and a reciprocal opportunity with Spain is underway. There is increased interest in international students attending the Palliser schools in Calgary and work with the societies is continuing.

The next meeting of the Palliser Board of Trustees is January 10, 2023.

### CONTACT US

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