

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PALLISER SCHOOL DIVISION REGULAR MEETING

BT20230418

DATE: April 18, 2023

9:00 a.m - Palliser Meeting Room C

Trustees in Attendance: Trustee Lorelei Bexte, Chair
Trustee Tony Montana, Vice-Chair
Trustee Debbie Laturnus
Trustee Mike Oliver
Trustee Sharon Rutledge
Trustee Louise Schmidt

Staff in Attendance: Dave Driscoll, Superintendent
Dexter Durfey, Secretary Treasurer
Audrey Kluin, Associate Superintendent
Wesley Lebeau, Communications Officer

Recording: Michelle Taylor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Lorelei Bexte, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution # BT20230418 - 01

Moved by: Trustee Debbie Laturnus

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. MOVE TO *IN-CAMERA*


Resolution # BT20230418 - 02

Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver

That the meeting move *In-Camera*, at 9:03 a.m., pursuant to Section S64(3) of the Education Act, and Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter S-3 and amendments thereto, to discuss Privileged Information with regards to identified In-Camera Items.

CARRIED

Chairperson: 

Secretary Treasurer: 

MOVE OUT OF *IN-CAMERA*

Resolution #BT20230418 - 03

Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

That the meeting moves out of *in-camera* at 10:40 a.m.

CARRIED

4. MOTIONS ARISING FROM *IN-CAMERA*

There were two motions arising from *in-camera*.

Resolution # BT20230418 - 04

Moved by: Trustee Debbie Laternus

That the Educational Assistant compensation package be adjusted effective the 2023-2024 school year based on the recommendation of Administration.

CARRIED

Resolution # BT20230418 - 05

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montina

That the Board approves the new Master Agreement between the Calgary Islamic School Foundation and Palliser School Division with amendments as directed by the Board.

CARRIED

5. ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Resolution # BT20230418 - 06

Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

That the Minutes of the March 14, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Palliser School Division be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1. Literacy and Numeracy Accountability Report

Dr. Adam Browning, Director of Learning, presented the Literacy and Numeracy Accountability Report. The Highlights from 2022-2023 include:

- Literacy and numeracy are more than assessment.
 - Literacy learning today occurs through individual and group instruction in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Literacy learning recognizes that reading, writing and thinking are unique within subjects.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



- Numeracy learning is a lifelong process. Intentional and meaningful numeracy learning happens across all aspects of daily living
- Numerous professional learning opportunities around literacy have been offered in order to support curriculum implementation. Emphasis has been placed on early literacy and language support, content area literacy, vocabulary, and comprehension. Numerous professional learning opportunities during division-wide collaborative days and additional opportunities to support curriculum implementation.
- Strong partnerships with local universities have been developed which expand professional learning opportunities in both literacy and numeracy with a focus on what makes sense for students. Palliser has experts within the division who also facilitate learning opportunities.
- A division-wide literacy and numeracy symposia for teachers and administrators will take place in May. Palliser experts will be among the presenters. The division is looking to develop a partnership with literacy experts at the University of Lethbridge
- In response to Alberta Education's mandatory assessments, a Palliser Literacy Assurance Model allows for better support division-wide use of research-based assessments and interventions. As a result, the division has been able to look at its own data and with the implementation of assessments additional to those mandated by Alberta Education, has been able to better identify student needs, especially at-risk students.
- Additional literacy and numeracy support and intervention were provided to 317 students in Grade 1, 249 students in Grade 2, 81 students in Grade 3, and 98 students in Grade 4. Palliser students from Grades 1 to 4 have demonstrated significant growth in early reading and numeracy measures
- In addition to the mandatory curriculum implementation of Grades 1-3 English Language Arts and Mathematics, two division schools chose to implement Grades 4-6 English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The key actions for 2023-2024 include:

- Continued support to schools with the implementation of the Palliser Literacy Framework with a focus on the following key areas of literacy: Oral Language, Disciplinary Literacy, Balanced Literacy, and Digital Literacy.
- Continued support to schools with the implementation of the Palliser Numeracy Framework with a focus on key areas of numeracy: number sense and fluency, mathematical reasoning, visual mathematics, problem solving, and rich tasks.

Chairperson:

Louise E Bente

Secretary Treasurer:

[Signature]

- The creation of a Palliser Numeracy Assurance Model to support schools with numeracy assessment and intervention.
- Development of a continuum of writing assessment to support collective understanding of writing development.
- Creating opportunities to share and celebrate literacy and numeracy learning.

Challenges:

- Schools have been offered flexibility and training for the multitude of approved assessments being utilized for the approved Grades 1 to 3 mandatory provincial assessments.
- Concerns about a lack of resources aligned with the new curricula and time to understand and prepare for changes with respect to the expected implementation of Grades 4 to 6 English Language Arts and Mathematics and Grades 1 to 3 Science.

Dr. Browning was thanked for his presentation and for his passion for the work he does.

Resolution # BT20230418 - 07

Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver

That the Literacy and Numeracy Accountability Report is received as information.

CARRIED

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1. *SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Superintendent's monthly activities report.

7.2. *SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Secretary-Treasurer's monthly activities report.

7.3. *ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Associate Superintendent's monthly activities report.

7.4. *DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, LEARNING SERVICES REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Deputy Superintendent's monthly activities report.

7.5. *TRUSTEE REPORTS

Attached to the agenda were the Trustees' monthly activities reports.

Chairperson:

Louise E Bente

Secretary Treasurer:

Mike Oliver

7.6. ***ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ASBA) ZONE 6 UPDATE**
Attached to the agenda was the monthly ASBA Zone 6 update.

7.7. ***SCHOOL FIELD TRIP REPORT**
Attached to the agenda was the list of current out of province and international field trips.

8. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1. New K-6 Science Curriculum

The new Alberta Kindergarten to grade 6 science curriculum is ready to move into classrooms, starting with Kindergarten to grade 3 in September 2023. School authorities may choose to implement grades 4 to 6 in September 2023 or wait until September 2024. Dr. Adam Browning, Learning Services Director, provided information on the implementation of the science curriculum. Collaborative planning groups have been established within the division. In May, there will be two professional development sessions. At this point, there are Palliser schools that are considering the optional implementation of the science curriculum in the Fall of 2023. Discussion took place about the continuity of curriculum with optional implemental timeframes. Flexibility is afforded to schools as each site knows its community best.

Resolution # BT20230418 - 08

Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt

That the Board receives this report as information.

CARRIED

8.2. 2022-2023 Budget Update Report

Secretary Treasurer Dexter Durfey presented an update on the 2022-2023 school year budget. As of March 2023, the departments of Preschool, Instruction ECS-Grade 12 and Transportation currently sit at a surplus. Plant Operations and Maintenance is in a deficit position. Currently, it is predicted that the budget will be in a surplus position of \$1.8 million at the end of the school year. At the beginning of the school year, there was a predicted deficit of \$700,000. One contributing factor is that the clawback by Alberta Education does not have a clear cut formula, and as such, the division had predicted a clawback of \$1.5 million this school year. However, based on the framework now received by Alberta Education, the clawback will be approximately \$500,000. As well, additional funds have been received from the government throughout the school for programs not originally available at the time of last year's budget projections

Chairperson:

Louise E Bente

Secretary Treasurer:

[Signature]

such as Fuel Contingency, Learning Disruption Funding, and a Dual Credit Grant, Despite the projected surplus there was no negative impact on class sizes in Palliser. Designated grants arrived after the budget was complete and had no impact on the pupil-teacher ratio in classrooms in the division. The Board can consider designating surplus funds at year end to rebuild reserve funds which have been drawn upon in the past few years.

Dexter was thanked for his presentation and for the work of the finance team.

Resolution # BT20230418 - 09

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montina

That the Board receives this report as information.

CARRIED

There was a break for lunch from 12:05 to 12:47 p.m.

8.3. Terry Fox Foundation Thank You

Superintendent Driscoll has received a letter of thanks from the Terry Fox Foundation acknowledging the tremendous generosity of Palliser Schools in support of the 2022 Terry Fox Run. Eighteen Palliser schools raised \$13,869.30 for the Foundation. The Foundation is grateful to the leadership of the Board for encouraging philanthropy and is excited to continue Terry's Marathon of Hope and work with the division on the run in September 2023.

Resolution # BT20230418 - 10

Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

That the Board receives this report as information.

CARRIED

8.4. Trustee Attendance at High School Graduations

As schools plan for high school graduations at their individual sites, Trustees, historically, have been invited to present the Palliser Valedictorian Award. In some areas of the division, more than one Trustee attends school events and as such, the Board discussed attendance at high school graduation ceremonies

8.5. Edwin Parr Awards Banquet

Each year the Alberta School Boards Association honours six outstanding first-year teachers with the Edwin Parr Teacher Award. Palliser School Division

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



has nominated a first-year teacher for this award who will, along with representatives from the Board, attend the banquet honouring the Zone 6 nominees at the Heritage Inn in Taber on May 17, 2023. The Board discussed representation at this event and directed Administration to arrange for tickets to the event.

8.6. Mental Health Pilot Project Update

Positive mental health is a critical component of academic success and as such, Alberta Education has provided an investment to support mental health pilots in schools and enhance existing efforts. As was previously announced, Palliser is a recipient of funding that will increase student access to mental health supports and resources. Erika Publow, Counselling Lead, presented information to the Board on the Mental Health in Schools Grant Information. The grant is a multi-tiered approach over a two-year period to assist with increasing the service delivery of mental health supports. The division began hiring staff to provide grant funded supports early in the school year and as a result, the division is well into the pathway to service. The tiers of support are as follows:

Tier 1 - Universal Support - is provided by the external partners, Ever Active Schools and Life is Athletic, the Palliser Wellness Navigator and a representative from Alberta Health Services (AHS).

Tier 2 - Targeted Support - is provided by AHS and the external partner, Woods' Home

Tier 3 - Specialized Wrap around Support - is provided by the external partners, Impact Parenting and Dr. K. Massie. This tier provides support for families in struggle including those with complex behaviour and undiagnosed needs.

Joanne Wolochaty, the division's new Wellness Navigator, was introduced to the Board. Joanne spoke to the Board about the scope of her role, work she is currently doing and the wellness planning for the future. She is currently working with schools to assess the level of support and availability at schools to meet the eight dimensions of wellness. She is diving into determining what is working, what isn't working and where there are gaps. Key to her work is researching what resources are available, reviewing resources that are available and determining what is sustainable (from research based practices). Over the summer months, she will create and develop an online hub where teachers can access resources. She will also be building resource kits for schools and providing professional development to assist teachers in understanding how to use the kits. Joanne's work falls into Tier 1 of the approach to mental wellness

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



The Youth Systems Navigator is part of the second tier of support. As dictated by the grant there is a requirement to have external partners. Woods Homes was chosen based on their capacity and their current practices in working with school-aged students.

Family Systems Navigators, Tier 3, work to support the diverse needs of complex families, providing early intervention work and enhancing the work that the division's Making Connection Workers currently do. This service has been very successful and well received.

Early successes at each tiered level of support should be recognized including noting that Palliser is one of the first school authorities to have filled all roles that were created in response to the grant funding and be delivering services. Successes also include the development of a regular Wellness Newsletter, completing a gap analysis and setting the direction for upstream approaches to mental health and creating alternatives to suspension resources for principals.

Moving forward, a staff wellness framework will be developed as well as needs assessments and school wellness kits will be constructed over the summer.

The sustainability of this program is uncertain as this is based on grant funding.

Erika and Joanne were thanked for their presentation and Joanne was formally welcomed to the division by the Board.

Resolution # BT20230418 - 11

Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver

That the Board receives the Mental Health Pilot Project Update report as information.

CARRIED

9. MOVE TO *IN-CAMERA*

Resolution # BT20230418 - 12

Moved by: Trustee Debbie Laturus

That the meeting move *In-Camera*, at 1:40 p.m., pursuant to Section S64(3) of the Education Act, and Division 2 of Part 1 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter S-3 and amendments thereto, to discuss Privileged Information with regards to identified In-Camera Items.

CARRIED

MOVE OUT OF *IN-CAMERA*

Resolution #BT20230418 - 13

Moved by: Trustee Debbie Laturus

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



That the meeting move out of *in-camera* at 3:51 p.m.

CARRIED

10. MOTIONS ARISING FROM *IN-CAMERA*

There were two motions arising from *in-camera*.

Resolution # BT20230418 - 14

Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

That the Board authorizes Administration to purchase five new school buses as part of the 2023-2024 school year budget.

CARRIED

Resolution # BT20230418 - 15

Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt

That the Board holds a Regular Meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, to approve the operating budget for the 2023-2024 school year.

CARRIED

11. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Chairperson:

Louise E Bente

Secretary Treasurer:

[Signature]