



## MINUTES

### THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF PALLISER SCHOOL DIVISION

#### REGULAR MEETING

BT20240514

DATE: May 14, 2024

9:00 a.m. - Palliser Meeting Room B

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

**Staff in Attendance:** Dave Driscoll, Superintendent  
Dexter Durfey, Secretary Treasurer  
Tom Hamer, Deputy Superintendent  
Audrey Kluin, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources  
Hailey Pinksen, Associate Superintendent, Business Services  
Wesley Lebeau, Communications Officer

**Recording:** Michelle Taylor

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair, Lorelei Bexte, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 01**

**Moved by: Trustee Tony Montina**

Items **7.7** Administrative Procedure 102: 3-Year School Education Plan and **7.8** Removal of Administrative Procedure 363: Achievement Test And Diploma Examination Analysis were moved to Action/Discussion Items.

**8.6** Aviva Covid-19 Business Interruption Class Action and **8.7** Scheduling of Regular Board Meeting were added.

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

Chairperson: *Loulei E Bexte*

Secretary Treasurer: *[Signature]*

**3. MOVE TO *IN-CAMERA***

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 02**

**Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt**

That the meeting moves *In-Camera*, at 9:02 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**

**MOVE OUT OF *IN-CAMERA***

**Resolution #BT20240514 - 03**

**Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver**

That the meeting moves out of *in-camera* at 10:33 a.m.

**CARRIED**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM *IN-CAMERA***

There was no business arising from in-camera.

**5. ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 04**

**Moved by: Trustee Tony Montina**

That the Minutes of the April 9, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Palliser School Division be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

*Item 8.2 from ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS was moved to this part of the meeting*

8.2 Approval of 2024-2027 (Year One) Education Plan

As part of Alberta's Assurance Framework, the Palliser School Division has developed the Education Plan for 2024-2027, a summary of the goals and strategies for the division. Alberta's Assurance Framework provides guiding principles, domains and processes for enhancing public confidence that the education system is meeting the needs of students and that students are successful. Following the approval of the 2024-2025 Budget, the final report will be updated with 2024-2025 budget information and brought back to the Board for approval. The approved report will be sent to Alberta Education by the May 31, 2024, deadline and will be posted on the division's website.

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 05**

**Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver**

That the Board approves the draft 2024-2027, Year One, Palliser School Division Education Plan as presented.

**CARRIED**

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



## 6. PRESENTATIONS

### 6.1. Wellness Accountability Report

Shane Cranston, Director of Learning, presented the Wellness Accountability Report. Palliser Schools Division encourages students to thrive in all dimensions of Wellness and has set a goal that states that all Palliser students will engage with the foundational elements supporting wellbeing to provide them with the tools and confidence to live a healthy life. A universal approach is emphasized as being key to a healthy school and healthy students. Universal supports and services which are incorporated into the inclusive learning environment for all learners include but are not limited to, quality instruction and providing welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments. High-quality approaches are available to and benefit each learner. Priorities include:

- Creating a culture of belonging, embracing diversity and inclusion
- Positive student mental health with a focus on universal supports
- Ensuring a continuum of supports are in place, understood and utilized appropriately
- Creating strong partnerships within our communities
- Strengthening threat assessment protocol
- Data based decision making

Universal key supports and services in the areas of teaching and learning, social and physical environments, partnerships and policy and procedures include:

- Universal support of the Wellness Navigator
- Universal programming of Making Connections Workers
- School Based Wellness Teams
- School Based Wellness Goals and Action Plans.
- Developing structures that promote positive relationships and support between adults and students
- Continued emphasis on mental health promotion and prevention through an implementation plan of social emotional (SEL) resources
- Creating physical and natural spaces where students and staff can engage in meaningful wellness activities
- Wellness symposiums
- Creation of student-centred timetables and schedules
- Collecting and analyzing evidence to inform decisions such as Our School Surveys.
- Student Advisories and Leadership such as Headstrong.

School Goals are outlined in school Education Plans which incorporate the wellness plans of each school.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



The division has several targeted approaches within the continuum of support. These include: Family School Liaison Counsellors (FSLCs), Making Connections Workers, a Youth Systems Navigator: Wood's Homes, and a Family Systems Navigator: Impact Parenting. Specialized supports are also available and utilized including:

- FSLC (Crisis Response)
- C-STAG Threat Assessment Protocol
- COPE
- Complex Case (SWCSS)
- Clinical Consultation (Dr. Kendra Massie)

Highlights from the past year: The Mental Health Grant support continues to be impactful, particularly with the provision of targeted and specialized supports. Every school has a Wellness Team and an Action Plan. Every school attended the Wellness Symposium in the Fall. Threat assessment training has been provided. The Headstrong summit and student-led initiatives have also been impactful. The division values the impact of our Mental Health Team (FSLC and MCW's). As we look to the opportunities ahead to continue to make a difference in the mental health of students, we will continue to focus on universal supports. An application has been put forward for a CASA Mental Health classroom, which, if approved, would provide tailored, specialized supports for individual students.

In analyzing student survey data, the division is pleased to report that the division is doing well compared to Canadian norms with respect to students feeling a positive sense of belonging and reporting having positive relationships with others and learning environments that are welcoming, caring, respectful and safe. The data reveals that continued emphasis on universal supports is necessary as these supports make a difference to the wellbeing of our students.

Shane was thanked for the detailed presentation and for his work in wellness in the division.

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 06**

**Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge**

That the Board accepts the Wellness Accountability Report report as information.

**CARRIED**

6.2. Inclusive Education Accountability Report

Shane Cranston, Director of Learning, presented the Inclusive Education Accountability Report. The division has set out to re-vision what inclusion means over a three-year period. 2023-2024 marks the second year of the revisioning

Chairperson:

*Louise E Bente*

Secretary Treasurer:

*[Signature]*

process in which the system frameworks have been examined. The focus on Inclusion means building communities of diversity and a culture of belonging, meaning the classroom is for all learners. Learning Services has looked at how to re-vision program planning through a continuum of supports. The planning includes looking at how to plan with all students in mind. A revision of targeted/specialized strategies includes the revisioning of Individual Program Planning (IPP). and intensive programming. Further specialised strategies include streamline supports and Funding such as the Mental Health Grant and support from Jordan's Principle grants. Next year's focus will be on how to build curriculum to allow access for all students.

Highlights from the 2023-2024 year:

- There is evidence of positive change in our culture of inclusion.
- Piloting a new platform which houses most student services documents.
- Engaging staff in various, strategic professional development opportunities
- Strategic funding model (ex. EA grid)
- Jordan's Principle Group Application - a federal funded grant for Indigenous students in our communities who require additional supports.
- Strong collaboration in the South West Region: New three year commitment

The work of Learning Services and Learning Support Teachers is valued and strongly appreciated. Shane was thanked for the detailed presentation and his work and passion in the area of Inclusive Education.

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 07**

**Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt**

That the Board accepts the Inclusive Education Accountability Report as information.

**CARRIED**

There was a lunch break from 12:10 to 12:47 p.m.

6.3. Indigenous Accountability Report

Dr. Adam Browning, Director of Learning, provided the Indigenous Accountability Report.

There are currently 246 self-identified First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) students in Palliser schools. The number of FNMI students enrolled in the division has increased steadily over the past 5 years. During the 2023-2024

Chairperson:

*Louise E Bente*

Secretary Treasurer:

*[Signature]*

School year, \$292,350 was provided for specific support for self-identified students and capacity building towards Truth and Reconciliation. Professional learning emphasizing embedding Indigenous perspectives throughout the curriculum, student well-being and engagement, relationship building with local Indigenous groups, understanding the legacy of residential schools, and addressing the systemic education gap have been facilitated throughout the division.

Specific Calls to Action are being addressed.

*Call to Action 10:* calls upon the federal government to create legislation that would include a commitment to sufficient funding to close identified educational achievement gaps within one generation. The division has continued to prioritize additional support for students with Indigenous needs, both in terms of additional staffing support and professional learning support for schools, particularly to address areas of need in regard to student well-being and student achievement.

*Call to Action 62:* calls upon the federal and provincial governments to develop and require age-appropriate curriculum related to treaties, residential school history, and Indigenous peoples' contributions. Focus has continued on opportunities to embed Indigenous knowledge and perspectives across new curriculum. The division focused on developing land-based learning opportunities, connecting with local Indigenous groups and Elders, and developing and obtaining resources that integrate indigenous knowledge.

*Call to Action 63:* calls upon Ministers of Education to share information and best practices related to teaching about residential schools and Indigenous history, building student capacity for intercultural understanding and respect, and identifying teacher-training needs related to the above. Numerous professional learning opportunities and increased opportunities with local Elders and Knowledge Keepers were provided this year. Successes with Indigenization are shared through the Indigenous Success Newsletter. There continues to be an increase in our professional learning opportunities. During division-wide collaborative days teachers have engaged with ideas of how to embed Indigenous perspectives and the residential school history and legacy.

Moving forward, we will continue to focus on building teacher capacity to embed Indigenous perspectives throughout the curriculum. There will be a continued focus on building additional partnerships to support professional and student learning opportunities. Learning Services will look at capacity building for the teams to support a growing number of Indigenous students. We will increase instructional support to identify additional student needs.

Dr. Browning was thanked for his presentation and for his work with Indigenous students throughout the division.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



**Resolution # BT20240514 - 08**

**Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver**

That the Board accepts the First Nations Metis Inuit (FNMI) Education Accountability Report 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.

**7.6. \*ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ASBA) ZONE 6 UPDATE**

The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 6 update report was attached to the agenda.

**7.7. \*ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 102: 3-YEAR SCHOOL EDUCATION PLAN**

Administrative Procedure 103 was revised and will be posted on the division website following this Board meeting.

**7.8. \*REMOVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 363: ACHIEVEMENT TEST AND DIPLOMA EXAMINATION ANALYSIS**

Administrative Procedure is obsolete and will be removed from the division website following this Board meeting.

**7.9. \*SCHOOL FIELD TRIP REPORT**

A list of national and international field trips that are being planned in the division was included on the agenda.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:





**8. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

7.7 **\*ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 102: 3-YEAR SCHOOL EDUCATION PLAN**  
Administrative Procedure 102 has been revised to align with the guidelines of the Assurance Framework set out by the province. A discussion took place.

7.8 **\*REMOVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 363: ACHIEVEMENT TEST AND DIPLOMA EXAMINATION ANALYSIS**  
Administrative Procedure 363 is obsolete and will be removed as all schools in the province demonstrate they are meeting their responsibilities through the government's Assurance Framework. The framework has five assurance areas with related performance measures that enable schools and school authorities to show their communities how they are performing each year. Schools and school authorities share their results with their stakeholders through their Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and engage with them to set priorities and build their education plans. A discussion took place.

8.1. Terry Fox Foundation Thank You  
Sixteen Palliser schools raised \$14,529.80 for the Terry Fox Foundation in support of the 2023 Terry Fox School Run. The Foundation commends the leadership of the Board for fostering a culture of giving within Palliser Schools.

8.3 Policy Committee Report  
The Policy Committee met on April 18, 2024, and reviewed Policy 7: Committees of the Board. The draft policy will be posted on the division's website for information. The policy will be brought to the Board for approval at the next regular meeting in June.

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 09**

**Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver**

That the Board directs Administration to share the draft of Policy 7: Committees of the Board for public information.

**CARRIED**

8.4 Engagement on Cellphone Use in Schools

The Alberta government provided teachers, parents, and other staff an opportunity to provide input about cellphone use in schools through an online survey which closed on May 3, 2024. Input from this targeted engagement will help inform potential future government direction on cellphone use in schools. A discussion on this topic took place. Palliser is working to create a procedure that

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:





will direct cellphone use in the classroom, including working collaboratively with other southern Alberta school divisions.

8.5 Alberta School Boards Association Zone 6 Discussion Topics

Trustee Oliver brought forward items that required input from the Board for the Zone 6 meeting on May 15, 2024.

1. *Lack of funding in the last provincial budget to support increases for non-certificated staffing.* The Board would like to focus on advocating for increases in the base grant instead of focusing specifically on funding any particular staffing group.
2. *Fully-funded full-day kindergarten.* Palliser has engaged stakeholders in the past and is not in favour of advocating for fully-funded kindergarten.
3. *Increase in ASEBP (Alberta School Boards Employee Benefit School) costs.* Divisions are encouraged to pass along any concerns in this regard
4. *Bandwidth concerns.* Palliser has already met with representatives at Alberta Education which will be brought to the Minister's attention.
5. *Bookkeeping to be managed provincially.* The Board is in support of keeping the bookkeeping managed at the Zone level.

8.6 Aviva Covid-19 Business Interruption Class Action

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 10**

**Moved by: Trustee Debbie Laternus**

That the Board opt out of the class action suit against Aviva for business disruption coverage during COVID.

**CARRIED**

8.7 Scheduling of Regular Board Meeting

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 11**

**Moved by: Trustee Tony Montina**

That the Board schedules a Regular Meeting on May 21, 2024, for the purposes of budget approval for the 2024-2025 school year.

**CARRIED**

9. **MOVE TO IN-CAMERA**

**Resolution # BT20240514 - 12**

**Moved by: Trustee Tony**

That the meeting moves *In-Camera*, at 2:06 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

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



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 #BT20240514 - 13**

**Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver**

That the meeting moves out of *in-camera* at 4:25 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM *IN-CAMERA***

There was no business arising from in-camera.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Chairperson:

*Louise E Bente*

Secretary Treasurer:

*[Signature]*