

# Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: June 11, 2024



## Supporting our English Additional Learners

Palliser School Division student population is approaching 40% English as an additional language learners. As this segment of the student population grows, the Division has been building capacity and innovative ways to support these students. The learning services team has been paying close attention to the efficacy of support on learning growth over time.

The Division's approach is comprehensive. It emphasizes a deep understanding of each student, including their cultural background, to tailor individualized support strategies. A crucial element for success lies in ensuring students are exposed to and grasp a diverse range of vocabulary, especially in academic domains such as science and numeracy.

Palliser stands out as a leader in EAL support, with various staff groups—comprising Early Learning Educators, Learning Support Teachers, Educational Assistants, and Divisional leaders—dedicated to supporting EAL students. The Division actively invests in the professional development of these groups, with a significant focus on a strategy known as 'Making Content Comprehensible.'

Encouragingly, the academic performance gap between EAL and non-EAL students is narrowing each year. With projections indicating continued growth in EAL student enrollment, the Division remains committed to prioritizing support for these students.

## Engaging our Students through Off-Campus Education

The 2023/2024 school year marked a period of remarkable expansion for the Off-Campus Team. A significant milestone was the launch of the Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute (SACI), a career pathways program forged through collaboration between Lethbridge College and neighbouring divisions, with Palliser playing a pivotal role in its inception.

While SACI was a key focus, the Off-Campus team also dedicated efforts to bolster three core experiential programs already available to Palliser students. Year after year, participation in our work experience, green certificate, and registered apprenticeship programs continues to surge. Of particular note is the positive feedback received from students upon completing these programs.

“ I would recommend dual credit to other students, as it was really interesting and helped to give insight into what post-secondary education actually looks like ”

Looking ahead, our Off-Campus team is poised to introduce even more experiential trade programming for our students in the upcoming year. Additionally, we're in the process of establishing a dedicated learning space at Lethbridge College specifically for the SACI program, further enhancing its impact and reach.



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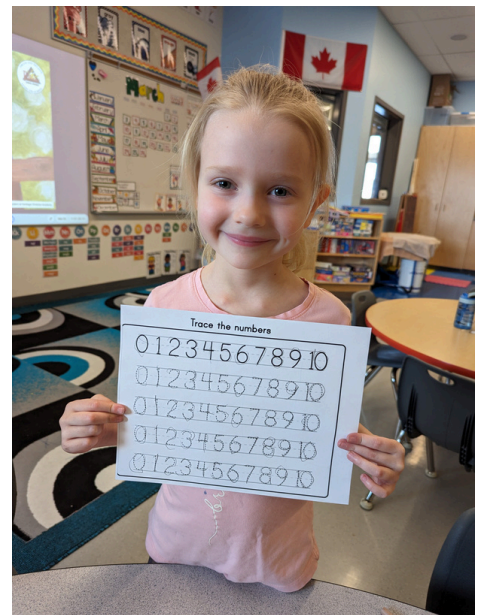
## Visit from MLA Grant Hunter

ReThe Board had the pleasure of hosting MLA Grant Hunter from the Taber-Warner riding recently. Mr. Hunter listened attentively to our Board's concerns, which predominantly revolve around underfunding and emerging issues.

One significant concern highlighted by the Board is the funding for mental health and well-being initiatives. Thanks to a recent grant, the Division has launched impactful support programs, and the Board would like to sustain and expand these efforts.

Another pressing issue discussed was the need for adequate funding for technology. From educational materials to facility resources, reliable internet connectivity is crucial for our operations and student learning, yet the funding has not been updated since 2013. The Division pays an additional \$11,000 per month above current funding.

During the meeting, the Board also took the opportunity to share numerous recent successes and highlights with Mr. Hunter. We appreciate his time and attention to our concerns.



**The next regular Board Meeting will be on September 10, 2024**  
**Have a wonderful summer!**

### CONTACT US

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