



MINUTES

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF PALLISER SCHOOL DIVISION

REGULAR MEETING

BT20240611

DATE: June 11, 2024

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

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: Dexter Durfey, Secretary Treasurer-(virtually)
Tom Hamer, Deputy Superintendent
Audrey Kluin, Associate Superintendent, Human Resources
Hailey Pinksen, Associate Superintendent, Business
Services-(virtually)
Wesley Lebeau, Communications Officer

Recording: Michelle Taylor

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Lorelei Bexte, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution # BT20240611 - 01

Moved by: Trustee Debbie Laturnus

8.8 Administrative Procedure 140 was moved from Information Items to Discussion Items.

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

Chairperson: *Loulei E Bexte*

Secretary Treasurer: *[Signature]*

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1. Off Campus/Engagement Report

Jason Kupery, Director of Learning, presented the Off Campus/Engagement Report. The Palliser Off Campus Team provides opportunities and resources to help students prepare for life after high school by encouraging students to explore interests and aptitudes, learn about relevant career pathways and engage in learning opportunities that equip them with passion, skills and confidence to be successful in the future. Currently, the following programs are supported in the Off Campus Program:

- Work Experience
- RAP
- Green Certificate
- Collegiate Program
- Dual Credit
- Exploratories

Jason shared highlights from the past school year:

- A 0.4 Career Practitioner was added (0.2 with Palliser School Division and 0.2 with CAREERS)
- Two team members are leaving to pursue other opportunities, but a full time team member is joining the team in the fall.
- An additional full time Career Practitioner will be hired in the fall.
- Two new post-secondary partners, Bow Valley College and Mount Royal University, came on board this year making 10 post secondary partners.
- The University of Lethbridge has renewed their agreement with a focus towards rural partners.
- The partnership with Mount Royal will have an Outdoor Education and Ecotourism focus.
- Student numbers for off campus programs continue to grow. There were 164 students in this school year.
- 112 (and counting) courses are available to students
- Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute (SACI)
 - 4 pre-employment opportunities are available for students through the Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute (SACI): Electrician, Carpentry, Welding and Pipe Trades where students can complete first year apprenticeship theory and earn 15 high school credits.
 - Content is being built for Health Care and Agriculture
 - Renovations on the DA Barn at Lethbridge College should be complete in the new year allowing the Collegiate to move forward with programming from that dedicated space.
 - 2 new teachers have been hired to develop exploratory programming for students in grades 7-9

Chairperson:

Louise E Bente

Secretary Treasurer:

[Signature]

- Fire Academy:
 - The capacity of the Fire Academy is expanding to 15 students and will be offering the “Fire Engineering Program” which will give students the credentials they need to succeed in Fire/Emergency Services. A 3-year donation of \$18,000 has been received from ATCO to support the program.
 - The MFR program was at capacity this year (18 students in total) and served students from Holy Spirit and Horizon as well as Palliser.
 - Will purchase 3 new sets of bunker gear to allow for high demand to be met. We will have 15 sets in total
 -
- Two grant applications to support dual credit programming have been submitted:
 - a \$50,000 start up grant from Mount Royal University
 - a \$100,000 Dual Credit Enhancement Grant to add materials and courses to our dual credit offerings (mobile medical lab or carpentry trailer)
- The Dual Credit Enhancement Grant for the 2023-2024 school year was used for:
 - Kitchen renovation at Carmangay
 - A purchase of tablets for artistic and architectural drawing to support dual credit courses at National Sport School.
 - The purchase of e-sports equipment at Coalhurst High School
- Jason continues to serve as Chair of the College of Alberta School Superintendents' TAVE committee and there has been much focus on raising the profile of career pathways in the province. The Premier attended the latest event at NAIT in May.
- All students in grades 4-12 have access to the Enriched Academy Financial Literacy course.

Jason was thanked for his presentation and for his dedicated work in helping students find their passions.

Resolution # BT20240611 - 02

Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt

That the Board accepts the Off Campus/Engagement Report as information.

CARRIED

4. MOVE TO IN-CAMERA

Resolution # BT20240611 - 03

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montana

That the meeting moves *In-Camera*, at 9:38 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

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 #BT20240611 - 04

Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver

That the meeting moves out of *in-camera* at 11:02 a.m.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM *IN-CAMERA*

There was no business arising from in-camera.

6. ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Resolution # BT20240611 - 05

Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

That the Minutes of the May 14, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Palliser School Division be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Resolution # BT20240611 - 06

Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

That the Minutes of the May 21, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Palliser School Division be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Resolution # BT20240611 - 07

Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt

That the Minutes of the May 28, 2024, Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Palliser School Division be approved as presented.

CARRIED

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1. English as an Additional Language (EAL) Report

Dr. Adam Browning, Director of Learning, presented the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Report. There are currently 3,546 identified English as an Additional Language learners (EALs) enrolled in Palliser schools, a slight increase of 39 students from 2022-2023. Highlights from the 2023-2024 school year include the implementation of Making Content Comprehensible, an

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



approach that integrates language and content area instruction, and the expansion of professional learning opportunities to support language acquisition.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the Alberta Education per-student funding for EAL programming will remain at the same level as the current school year. The division will be able to support 14,478 staffing hours for EAL programming in the year ahead, which is down approximately 1,700 hours from the current year but the division will be able to support 11.30 FTE Learning Support Teachers, up slightly from 10.90 FTE this year.

Focus for the 2024-2025 school year will continue to be on the key areas of literacy and language: oral language and vocabulary, content area literacy, and balanced literacy. The division will support the full implementation of the new EAL Benchmarks. An improved system for reporting Benchmarks has been adopted. Additional literacy and language assessments for students in divisions 1 and 2 and a division-wide writing assessment will be developed in conjunction with our EAL and Literacy team.

We continue to plan directly with school administrators and learning support teachers for collaborative professional learning opportunities. A number of leaders have been trained to support the Making Content Comprehensible initiative. This year, there was a focus on providing language professional learning for groups of support staff to ensure there are consistent and effective approaches to language learning, including staff supporting Early Learning and language instructors. The division continues to coordinate professional learning opportunities in conjunction with other school divisions and the two provincial consortia (SAPDC and CRC) specific to English language learning.

EAL Achievement Trends:

- Continued improvement in performance of EALs across all literacy measures, including our provincially mandatory literacy assessments.
- Analysis of Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) and Diploma Exam (DIPs) results show that although our EAL students demonstrate performance in almost all subjects as compared to EAL students across the province, we continue to see some variance in the achievement of EAL and non-EAL students within Palliser.

Adam was thanked for the presentation and his work with EAL students in the division.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



Resolution # BT20240611 - 08

Moved by: Trustee Sharon Rutledge

That the Board accepts the English as an Additional Language (EAL) Report as information.

CARRIED

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1. *SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

8.2. *SECRETARY TREASURER'S REPORT

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

8.3. *ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

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

8.4. *DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, LEARNING SERVICES REPORT

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

8.5. *ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, BUSINESS SERVICES REPORT

Attached to the agenda was the Associate Superintendent, Business Services' monthly activities report.

8.6. *TRUSTEE REPORTS

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

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

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

8.8. *ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 140: USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Administrative Procedure 140 and its forms were revised and will be posted on the division website following this Board meeting.

8.9. *SCHOOL FIELD TRIP REPORT

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

9. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



9.7 Introduction of MLA Grant Hunter and Discussion with the Board

MLA Grant Hunter from the Taber-Warner Constituency joined the meeting at 11:55 a.m. The Board appreciates that MLA Hunter was able to attend the meeting for discussion on challenges faced by the division and to share with him many celebrations from the past school year. The topics discussed were:

1. Mental Health Pilot in Schools /CASA Classrooms
2. Technology Services facing underfunding in cybersecurity
3. Funding shortfall due to changes in busing eligibility
4. Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute (SACI)
5. Coalhurst High School Modernization and Coaldale Community Solution to Facilities

Celebrations:

- RI Baker tree planting event
- John Davidson School launched a skate equipment library
- Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary School will open for the 2024-2025 school year
- Kate Andrews High School Fire Academy continues to be successful and contributes to students' success after high school due to the fire academy.
- High School numbers for the Low German Mennonite communities continue to rise.

MLA Hunter was thanked for his time and attention to the many items that were discussed.

There was a lunch break from 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

9.1. 2024-2025 School Year Budget Presentation

Hailey Pinksen, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, presented the approved 2024-2025 budget for the Palliser School Division. The Board approved the budget on May 21, 2024. The 2024-2025 Budget has a projected deficit of \$1,357,595. The projected deficit can be attributed to the Board's commitment to maintaining small class sizes and continuing to increase supports for students in the areas of mental health and counselling services. The administrative team has utilized operating reserves and grants to maintain additional support in classroom staffing, FSLC counsellors and connections workers as well as new supports for career and academic counselling. These supports have been identified as key requirements moving forward to continue to drive our students' success. Additionally, a lack of funding adjustments to the base instruction grant to offset inflationary pressures continues to cause strain. The current Operations and Maintenance grant funding is not sufficient to maintain facilities. The budget

Chairperson:

Louise E Bente

Secretary Treasurer:

[Signature]

includes pay increases for support staff to ensure alignment with other school divisions in our zone.

An infographic summarizing the budget is posted on the division's website:
<https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/download/453848>

Resolution # BT20240611 - 09

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montana

That the Board receives the 2024-2025 Budget Report as information.

CARRIED

9.2. Appointment of Secretary-Treasurer

With the retirement of Dexter Durfey, Secretary-Treasurer, Hailey Pinksen, Associate Superintendent, Business Services will assume the role of Secretary Treasurer of the division. Once appointed, the Minister of Education will be informed. The Board thanks Dexter for his years of service with The Palliser School Division.

Resolution # BT20240611 - 10

Moved by: Trustee Louise Schmidt

That Hailey Pinksen, Associate Superintendent, Business Services, be appointed as Secretary-Treasurer of The Palliser School Division as of June 29, 2024.

CARRIED

9.3. Approval of Policy 7: Committees of the Board

The Policy Committee met on April 18, 2024, and reviewed Policy 7: Committees of the Board. The draft policy was posted on the division's website for information and was shared with Administrators and School Council Chairs. The policy was brought to the Board for final approval.

Resolution # BT20240611 - 11

Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver

That the Board approves Policy 7: Committees of the Board as presented.

CARRIED

9.4. Approval of Locally Developed Courses

Locally Developed Courses are created by school authorities to address a particular local student need. Alberta Education requires approval by Board Motion for the use of locally developed courses. The Board reviewed the list of courses for authorization as put forward by Learning Services.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:



Course Name	Version	Course Code	First Approved Year	Approved Start Date	Last Approved Year
Band 15	3 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC1439	2024-2025		2024-2025
Band 15	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC1439	2024-2025		2024-2025
Band 25	3 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC2439	2024-2025		2024-2025
Band 25	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC2439	2024-2025		2024-2025
Band 35	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC3439	2024-2025		2024-2025
Band 35	3 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC3439	2024-2025		2024-2025
Biology (Advanced) 35	3 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC3202	2024-2025		2027-2028
Chamber Ensemble 15	3 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC1417	2024-2025		2024-2025
Chamber Ensemble 15	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC1417	2024-2025		2024-2025
Chamber Ensemble 25	3 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC2417	2024-2025		2024-2025
Chamber Ensemble 25	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC2417	2024-2025		2024-2025
Chamber Ensemble 35	3 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC3417	2024-2025		2024-2025
Chamber Ensemble 35	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC3417	2024-2025		2024-2025
Choir 15	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC1414	2024-2025		2024-2025
Choir 25	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC2414	2024-2025		2024-2025
Choir 35	5 Credits (2021-2025)	LDC3414	2024-2025		2024-2025

Chairperson: *Louise E Bente* Secretary Treasurer:



Classical Mythology 15	3 Credits (2022-2026)	LDC1208	2024-2025		2025-2026
ESL Expository English Level 1 15	5 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC1271	2024-2025		2027-2028
ESL Expository English Level 2 15	5 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC1276	2024-2025		2027-2028
ESL Introduction to Mathematics 15	5 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC1350	2024-2025		2027-2028
Reading Foundations A 15	3 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC1296	2024-2025		2027-2028
Reading Foundations A 15	5 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC1296	2024-2025		2027-2028
Reading Foundations B 15	3 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC1311	2024-2025		2027-2028
Reading Foundations B 15	5 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC1311	2024-2025		2027-2028
Religious Studies Islamic Studies 15	5 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC1785	2024-2025		2027-2028
Religious Studies Islamic Studies 25	5 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC2785	2024-2025		2027-2028
Religious Studies Islamic Studies 35	5 Credits (2024-2028)	LDC3785	2024-2025		2027-2028

Resolution # BT20240611 - 12

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montina

That the Board authorizes the use of locally developed courses as presented.

CARRIED

9.5. Imaginal+ (Master's) Additional School Code

To further enhance student learning, Palliser School Division will be supporting the creation of Imaginal+ hybrid learning through Master's.

Resolution # BT20240611 - 13

Moved by: Trustee Mike Oliver

Chairperson:  Secretary Treasurer:



That in conjunction with Master's, a hybrid academy will be developed and called Imaginal+.

CARRIED

Resolution # BT20240611 - 14

Moved by: Trustee Debbie Laturnus

That Imaginal+ be opened June 12, 2024.

CARRIED

9.6. Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 6 Discussion Topics

Trustee Mike Oliver brought forward items from the ASBA Zone meeting for Board input. Discussion included support for writing a letter to the Minister to advocate for an increase in the base funding grant. As well, a position statement will be created to bring forward at the next Zone meeting. ASBA banking will be discussed at the next Zone meeting and the Board supports keeping banking at the Zone level.

The Premier attended the recent Rural Caucus Meeting. She spoke to the need for change to the funding manual. She recognized that the needs in Calgary and Edmonton are different from those in southern Alberta. She addressed the costs of right-sizing existing schools in comparison to building new schools. Pilot project grants are being considered for renewal.

Resolution # BT20240611 - 15

Moved by: Trustee Tony Montana

That the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) Zone 6 report be received as information.

CARRIED

8.8 Administrative Procedure (AP) 140: Use Of Technology

This AP has been updated to itemize generative AI and cloud hosted services as electronic information resources. General discussion took place.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Chairperson:



Secretary Treasurer:

