

# Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: Jan 14, 2025



## Occupational Health and Safety Update

The Palliser School Division made significant progress in occupational health and safety (OHS) during 2024, addressing challenges and implementing proactive measures. Four incidents were reported to Alberta OHS as potentially serious, with all required procedures followed and no additional measures recommended. Facility inspections, including air quality assessments at Spring Ridge Colony and playground safety checks across several schools, ensured compliance and addressed minor issues. Notably, Coalhurst Elementary playground required structural repairs, with two structures reopened and one remaining closed pending further action. The OHS team will continue to assess Colony Schools in 2025.

Division OHS is working with the counselling team to launch a pilot behavioural reporting system in Calgary and Vulcan schools. This initiative empowers staff and students to report concerning and positive behaviours. Division and school staff will use a familiar software platform to report on behaviour, allowing for a quick response. Staff look forward to celebrating positive behaviour reported through the system as well.



## Transportation Services Update

The Palliser School Division operates a fleet of 85 buses, transporting 2,400 students daily across 63 routes and travelling over 1.9 million kilometres annually. In 2024, the fleet maintained compliance with all provincial safety requirements, including biannual inspections, GPS tracking, and enhanced monitoring systems. The "Think of Us on the Bus" safety campaign continues to raise awareness, supported by law enforcement and regional outreach. Additionally, five new camera systems were added to buses, reducing traffic violations around school buses and providing drivers with 360-degree visibility around the bus.

Despite rising fuel costs and a shortage of spare drivers, the transportation department is closing the 2023-2024 year with a small surplus due to subsidies and cost-saving measures. The department is also addressing ongoing operational improvements, including field trip support and stakeholder collaboration to resolve concerns. Looking ahead, the division will continue to modernize its fleet and adapt to regulatory changes affecting eligibility criteria and funding for the 2026-2027 school year.

# Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: Jan 14, 2025



## 2024/2025 Budget Update

The Palliser School Division, like many others across the province, is facing a budget deficit for the 2024/2025 school year due to funding challenges. A \$1.5 million funding loss from a grant clawback due to enrollment overestimations is responsible for much of the deficit. While initial projections indicated a \$4.4 million shortfall, cost-saving measures such as unfilled positions, new hires at entry-level salaries, and operational efficiencies have reduced the deficit to \$2.6 million.

Despite rising expenses for new facilities, buses, and staffing, Palliser remains committed to protecting classroom resources and maintaining high-quality education. The Board continues to advocate for adequate funding, emphasizing the unique needs of rural schools and shifting enrollment. Through careful planning and ongoing dialogue with the provincial government, the division focuses on finding long-term solutions to ensure student stability and growth.

## 2025/2026 Calendars

The Board approved draft Division calendars for the 2025/2026 school year for our South, North and Islamic schools.

Now that the Board has approved the Division calendars, school administrators will consult with their staff and community to determine a local calendar. This may include additional school-based professional development days, shown in purple on the calendar, to continue to work on local priorities and goals, or a request may be made for additional non-student, non-staff days, also referred to as non-operational days. The calendars will be available soon on our Division website:

<https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/schools/school-calendar-information>



**The next regular Board Meeting will be on Feb 11, 2025**

### CONTACT US

The Palliser School Division  
Direct Line: (587) 486-0311  
Phone: (403) 328-4111  
or (1-877-667-1234 toll-free)  
Fax: (403) 380-6890

[www.pallisersd.ab.ca](http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca)

Facebook: Palliser School Division

Instagram: @PalliserSchools