

Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: April 8, 2025



Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute

Through partnerships with Lethbridge Polytechnic and other regional organizations, the Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute (SACI) offers exciting career pathway programs for students in grades 7–12. These programs provide opportunities to explore careers in Trades, Agriculture, and Health Care through hands-on learning and real-world experiences.

For younger students (grades 7–9), the E3 program builds confidence and practical skills through projects such as patching bike tires, plant splicing, first aid, and constructing small electrical items. These experiences are especially impactful for students who learn best through hands-on activities.

Older students (grades 9–12) can participate in dual credit programs that include college-level courses, work experience, certifications, and other career-focused activities, providing a valuable head start after high school. SACI plans to expand these opportunities further following the completion of the new facility at Lethbridge Polytechnic. Families and students interested in learning more can visit the SACI page on the [“OFF CAMPUS” website](#).



Numeracy Report

The Palliser Numeracy Professional Learning Community is a dedicated group of teachers and administrators who support the continued growth of math teaching and learning in the Division. This work directly supports the Division’s goal of helping every student develop strong numeracy skills as foundational building blocks for academic success and daily life.

This year, the Division hosted a successful Numeracy Symposium and partnered with neighboring divisions to deliver targeted professional learning opportunities, including the well-received Building Thinking Classrooms approach. These initiatives are equipping teachers with practical tools and strategies for delivering engaging, hands-on math instruction. Resources such as additional whiteboard spaces, digital platforms, and fluency kits are also helping spark student curiosity and promote deeper thinking.

(cont'd next page)

Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: April 8, 2025



Numeracy Report (Continued)

Teachers across the Division are collaborating to build clear learning progressions that support math development from one grade to the next. Their collective efforts focus on aligning instruction, supporting students who require additional help, and using data to inform teaching, particularly in Grades K–3, where foundational numeracy skills are critical for long-term success. An opportunity will be provided to teachers to participate in the development of this resource.

Literacy Report

Palliser continues to prioritize strong literacy foundations, especially in the early years. This year, more than 1,000 students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 received targeted support in reading and language development. Teachers and administrators collaborated to enhance assessment practices and responses to student needs through updated tools, including the Palliser Early Literacy Assessment and Intervention Pathways.

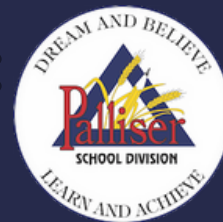
Professional learning opportunities focused on early reading instruction, vocabulary development, and comprehension. Two Literacy Symposia were held in November, one in Calgary and one in Lethbridge. Professional learning days and collaborative sessions enabled educators to connect and share strategies. Increased inter-school collaboration also allowed teachers to observe literacy intervention practices in action. Staff have asked for more opportunities to learn from other educators in their classrooms.

Partnerships with the University of Lethbridge and the University of Calgary have broadened professional learning options for staff. Administrators continue to engage in learning communities that support strong literacy leadership within schools.

While progress has been made in creating more consistent assessment practices, changes to provincial literacy assessments have introduced some challenges. The Division remains committed to flexible approaches while working toward more unified methods of tracking student growth over time. Educators are using assessment data to guide instruction and ensure timely, targeted support for students.

Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: April 8, 2025



Facilities Update

The Palliser School Division's Facilities team has experienced significant changes this year. The unexpected passing of long-time Facilities Supervisor Rod Swatzenberger at the beginning of the year was deeply felt by all who knew him. Most recently, Rod oversaw the planning, construction, and completion of Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary, a facility that stands as a testament to his dedication and passion for the students of Palliser. The report also listed all the other projects and improvements that were completed over the past year.

The Facilities team is now led by Rick Aos, Facilities Manager, who joins Palliser from the University of Lethbridge. The team is also supported by Stephen O'Connor, Maintenance Supervisor, who oversees Palliser's caretaking staff. With several long-serving facilities employees set to retire this year, their experience is being generously passed along to new team members.

The Facilities team will be working closely with schools and conducting site visits to enhance learning environments for all Palliser students.



The next regular Board Meeting will be on May 13, 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

Facebook: Palliser School Division

Instagram: @PalliserSchools