



**Date:** Wednesday, October 18, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00pm to 8:06pm  
**Meeting Room:** Virtual  
**Facilitator:** Debbie Belgrave (Chair)  
**Timekeeper:** Grant Fong (Vice Chair)  
**Minute Taker:** Ann Pan  
**Attendees:** Debbie Belgrave, Grant Fong, Lorelei Bexte, Ann Pan, Dayle Vienneau, David Drinkwalter, Asha McCracken, Jason Kupery, Catherine Prins, Chelsea Thiessen, Damilola Bamidele, Anna Braun, Leah Ekubazgi, Kelly Tebbutt, Nilani Liyanage, Melanie Hall, Lisa Kuehn, Sharon Postma, Rafael Mendez, Sophia Mendez, Stephanie Schroeder, King Tong, Ademola Odesola, Atarah, Amanda Toews, Melanie Wengatz

Agenda Item	Notes	Speaker
<b>1. Welcome, Call to order, absence for apologies, introductions.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:05 pm – Greetings from Debbie. Call to order.</li> <li>• Thank you for coming!</li> <li>• 7:05 pm – Grant opened in prayer and land acknowledgement.</li> <li>• Round table introductions – everyone introduced themselves.</li> </ul>	Debbie B
<b>2. Roll call.</b>	Ann took attendance. 26 in attendance.	
<b>3. Open Orders of Business: Chair</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to approve the minutes for June 1, 2023, meeting: Debbie B</li> <li>• Second by Lisa Kuehn, all in favour</li> </ul> Passed Minutes for June 1, 2023	Debbie B
<b>4. New Business: Update from Palliser</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Palliser Report posted below, see Appendix 1</li> <li>• Jason Kupery shared a few items:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Robotics Option will be coming to Menno. Palliser is working with Dayle, an alumni student, and Mr. John to get this club set up for students. Robots have been purchased and we are excited to get started!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	





# **Appendix 1 – Board Trustee Report**

## **Board Report for Menno Simons School Council Meeting October 18, 2023**

Any questions or concerns please contact Lorelei Bexte (403) 485-0823, [lolelei.bexte@pallisersd.ab.ca](mailto:lolelei.bexte@pallisersd.ab.ca)

### **Organizational/Regular Meeting of the Board August 22, 2023**

#### **Board Chair, Vice Chair and Alternate Vice Chair:**

Along with the monthly Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees held our organizational meeting. Trustee Lorelei Bexte will remain as Chair for the upcoming school year. Trustee Tony Montana was acclaimed as Vice Chair and Debbie Laturnus will keep the role of Alternate Vice-Chair.

#### **Opening Day**

Superintendent Dave Driscoll provided information on our Opening Day, which took place on August 31, 2023. We shared in a special kick off day with all employees of the division and celebrated the first staff day of the 2023-2024 school year with a keynote address from Canadian educator, Kevin Lamoureux on the topic of Seizing the Magical Opportunity of School as a place of healing. Our division is looking forward to an amazing year.

#### **Locally Developed Courses**

The Board recently approved some new locally developed courses (LDCs). School Authorities can develop or acquire these courses to address student and/or community needs. These learning opportunities complement, extend, and/or expand upon provincial programs of study. All locally developed courses (elementary, junior high, and high school) require school authority approval by resolution of the Board or governing body before offering the locally developed course to students. The Palliser Board has authorized the use of over 125 courses. The most recently approved course is Neuropsychology.

#### **The Board Considers ASBA Motion Regarding Kindergarten**

The Alberta School Boards Zone 6 has been consulting with Boards in their zone regarding full day, full week, fully funded kindergarten. The Zone is looking for feedback on a position statement they wish to put forward at the ASBA Fall general meeting to advocate to the Government to make this change. The Palliser Board of Trustees has been carefully reviewing its beliefs regarding offering full-day kindergarten and has asked the division administration about the feasibility and impact of providing a full day of learning. The Board will also be consulting with educational partners, including parents and caregivers in our communities to understand their thoughts on the matter. An initial review suggests that space, employee talent, and educational benefits would make full day kindergarten both feasible and beneficial. However, a full day curriculum with rich learning activities and additional funding would be required to make this a reality. The Board also acknowledges and respects the diverse group of communities that it serves and would support parents' and caregivers' choice in sending their children to full day kindergarten. A change of this magnitude would likely take place over a long period of time, but at this juncture, the Board feels it is worth further investigation of full day kindergarten.

#### **Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2023/24**

The following dates will be established as regular meeting dates for the 2023-2024 term. All meetings will be held at the Palliser Education Centre, #101, 3305 - 18 Avenue North, Lethbridge, Alberta. All meetings are held on a Tuesday and scheduled from 9am to 4pm. September 12, 2023, October 10, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 28, 2023, Dec2023, October, January 16, 2024, February 13, 2024, March 12, 2024, April 9, 2024, May 14, 2024, June 11, 2024

## **Regular Meeting of the Board September 12, 2023:**

### **Appointment of the Deputy Superintendent**

The Board of Trustees are pleased to announce that Tom Hamer, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services, will be the Deputy Superintendent. The Deputy Superintendent will assume the Superintendent's roles and responsibilities when the Superintendent is unavailable or as assigned by the Superintendent.

### **2023 Canadian School Boards Association Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education Report**

Palliser School Division Trustees Lorelei Bexte, Tony Montina and Louise Schmidt attended a Gathering on Indigenous Education in Banff. The theme was "Leading the Path Forward". Our three Trustees attended sessions on engaging communities when making tough decisions, using innovative governing practices, and community connection through meaningful partnerships. The event was a wonderful learning opportunity, and the Board looks forward to sharing this learning with the Division as the year progresses.

### **Financial Update 2022-2023 School Year**

Cindy Rogers, Director of Finance provided an interim financial report as of August 31, 2023, for the 2022-2023 school year. There is a projected surplus of \$1.6 million. The board had approved a \$753,000 deficit budget. Increased government funding of \$2.0 million, which includes an anticipated clawback reduction of \$973,000 has contributed to the surplus. Year end financial entries are anticipated to not greatly affect the projected surplus for this year.

## **Regular Meeting of the Board, October 10, 2023:**

### **Update on Assessment from Learning Services:**

Palliser School Division is in the process of enhancing our assessment practices. While this shift has been in progress for some time, this marks the first year where some Palliser elementary schools will be introducing a new report card through the 'Edsby' platform. Deputy Superintendent, Tom Hamer, expressed his enthusiasm for this innovative communication tool, designed to provide parents and caregivers with insightful and meaningful updates on their child's progress. Central to our updated assessment approach is the emphasis on formative assessment over summative assessment. Formative assessment gives teachers timely insights into a student's learning trajectory, allowing for immediate adjustments when necessary. This not only empowers teachers to address potential learning gaps promptly but also bolsters students' confidence as they can clearly see their growth. Moreover, this consistent feedback helps to lessen the anxiety surrounding final exams. The Division is eager to delve deeper and engage our school communities in this transformative journey over the upcoming year.

### **Palliser School Board to Develop New Vision, Mission and Values:**

The Palliser School Division's Board of Trustees is embarking on a significant journey to shape our future. In the coming months, our Trustees will collaboratively develop a refreshed Vision, Mission, and set of Values that will guide our division in the years ahead. The Board is committed to transparency and inclusivity in this process. Early next year, we will present the plan for broader public engagement. We anticipate the unveiling of our renewed direction and cultural blueprint in Spring 2024. We're excited and look forward to collaborating with you on this pivotal transition.

### **Board of Trustees Reviews Policy:**

The Board of Trustees reviewed Policy 8: Appeals and Hearings Regarding Student Matters. The newly revised policy is available to Principals, parents and concerned public at this link:

<https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/policy-review>

## Appendix 2 – Principal’s Report

### PRINCIPAL’S REPORT - October 2023

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#### What’s Happening?

- 223 students (up from 216 last year)
- School Theme Verse
  - “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” - Ephesians 2:10
  - Mirrors located around the school that say the theme of each class chapel (ie: unique, Child of the King)
- School Life
  - Busy! Awesome!
  - Chapels, field trips, athletics, spirit days, service projects, etc.
  - Service Opportunities
    - Div 1 - within our school community
    - Div 2 - within the community
    - Div 3 - further outside our immediate community
- Uniform reminder
  - No jogging pants/sweatpants
  - Shirts must be the crested Menno shirts
  - Hoodies are okay to wear over top of a crested shirt
  - Leggings should only be worn underneath skirts
  - Indoor shoes - remove outdoor boots/shoes at front door when it is wet or snowy
  - Spirit days/dress up days will all follow the same pattern of dress up or casual for that day
- Overall, the year has a really nice feel to it. We have a strong team who support each other well. Our JH students have received multiple compliments on what lovely students we have. Buddies are giving each other high fives and hugs in the hallway... and we are only one month in!

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#### Looking ahead...

- Penny Carnival and Peace Festival
- P/T Conferences (online format)
- JH Parent/Student portal opening soon! Watch for details on how to sign up through Edsby.
- School Goals/Focus
  - Students will be able to identify their emotions so they can react appropriately, helping them to self-advocate and make good decisions
    - Focus on relationships (student, teacher, community)
    - Identity in Christ

- Cultural identity
  - Physical and mental health initiatives
  - Resilience
- Literacy/Numeracy
  - ELL focus - learning new strategies to support these students
  - Division 1 Literacy intervention assessments and strategies
  - Updating our books in classrooms
  - New curriculum in Div 1 (science) and Div 2 (LA and Math)
- Fraser Report
  - Due to our school size/one class per grade, our results will fluctuate each year.
  - This is a snapshot of approx. 20 students on a standardized exam. If even one student struggles on those exams, the impact on our numbers is quite significant. If you have 100 students in a grade and one student struggles, the impact is not as large. When you factor in English as a Second Language and learning difficulty supports, you quickly see how each class and year would look different.
  - We want to be a school that connects and challenges each student in their learning journey. Our teachers continue to be lifelong learners themselves as they remain updated in current research and teaching strategies.
  - We try to ensure that our classes have a good balance of students who require extra support, students who require extra challenges for giftedness, and those who require ELL support. We also do not want to be a school that turns anyone away simply due to needing some extra learning support.
  - If you have any specific questions, please feel free to reach out to Mme. Vienneau.
- Student supports:
  - Ms. E and Ms. South
  - Miss Laughland and Alianna Grasmeyer (alumni) - JH Girls Connection group (GRACE Group) - faith, life, and how you can grow as a follower of Jesus as a girl in our world today.
- PD focus for staff this year:
  - Mental health and wellness (anxiety - continued from last year)
  - ADHD/EF and how to support students/strategies for the classroom
  - First Aid Certification
  - Christian Studies curriculum/goals
  - Assessment strategies
  - Analysis of data (PAT results, literacy/numeracy assessments, OurSchool surveys, assurance surveys)