



**Date:** Thursday, October 17, 2024  
**Time:** 7:00pm to 7:52pm  
**Meeting Room:** Virtual  
**Facilitator:** Lisa Kuehn (Chair)  
**Timekeeper:** Ann Pan  
**Minute Taker:** Ann Pan  
**Attendees:** Lisa Kuehn, Ann Pan, Dayle Vienneau, Keith Humphreys, Jane Kruger, Marvin Grasmeyer, Bisi Oladipo, Esther Bedwell, Barby Peterson, Lei Sun, Natalia Gorgonchova, Chelsea Thiessen, Courtney Dreger, Jane Zhao, Stephanie Schroeder, Kelly Tebbutt, Khoulood Alsamarah, Melanie Wengatz, Debbie Belgrave, Jolene Giesbrecht, Ekaterina Kasatkin, Sola Oladipo

	Notes	Speaker
<b>1. Welcome, Call to order, absence for apologies, introductions.</b>	Lisa Kuehn, introduces herself as Parent School Council Chair for 2024/25. 2 Boys at the school Eli & Nathan. Appreciates former school council – she has big shoes to fill! Marvin Grasmeyer opens in prayer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:01 pm. Meeting started</li> </ul>	
<b>2. Roll call.</b>	Ann took attendance. 22 people in attendance.	
<b>3. Open Orders of Business: Chair</b>	Motion to approve minutes from last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to approve the minutes for May 22, 2024, meeting: Lisa Kuehn</li> <li>Second by Stephanie Schoeder, all in favour - Passed</li> </ul>	Lisa Kuehn
<b>4. New Business: Update from Palliser School Division</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lorelei Bexte, Palliser Report posted below, see Appendix 1</li> </ul>	Lorelei Bexte

<p><b>5. New Business:</b> <b>Principals Report</b></p>	<p>Principal Report posted below, see Appendix 2  Questions:  <i>How many assessments are there each year per grade?</i>  Grade 1 has 3 Reading and 1 Math  Grade 3's start to have assessments that are in group format so become a bit less time consuming.  <i>I have been thankful for the small class size and the Christian environment but wanted to give some feedback regarding the school calendar and the number of days off. When I compared the school calendar with other schools we have 171 days of school compared to other public and Christian schools that have 174 days. Does this affect the ability to be able to do these assessments etc? Should we have more school days?</i>  The calendar is based on instructional hours. Palliser requires us to provide 960 instructional hours in a school year. Currently, we are above that number. The length of the day would not impact the testing times, it may extend them as there would be more pauses between sessions and students.  <i>Should we add more days to our calendar?</i>  While we have a required minimum amount of instructional hours to meet, we also have a required maximum number of hours that teachers can be in front of students for instruction. To create the calendar, we need to find the balance between the two.  <i>What is the Menno teacher student ratio?</i>  We are fortunate because we actually have a larger FTE than we qualify for within our school district. Our Society provides us with additional support, so we actually offer more instructional hours than most public schools.  <i>I wondered about science fairs, through my profession I receive a lot of correspondence regarding science fairs, would the school be interested in getting some of this information?</i>  Yes, you can send it my way. We don't run a science fair at the school, but Mr. John has brought some of their students to other science fairs and the students did quite well.  <i>I had a question about the clubs, will the parents get some information on the clubs that are happening at the school so that we can encourage our kids?</i>  Yes, I can put together something for the memos. So far it's crochet club, as well as student crew. Chess club starts Monday and Coding Club starts on Wednesday.  <i>I have a questions regarding the ask to advocate on behalf of the school to the Minister of Education. Is there someone that we need to write to?</i>  I'll provide some talking points and would guess that Minister of Education would be the first place to start, again I want to reiterate that I am not against assessment, it's just that the ones that have been implemented take a lot of time and the teachers aren't able to extract as much useful data from them. So could they instead utilize assessment that they would normally need.  Maybe what I can propose is that we draft a letter on behalf of Parent School Council and then the parents can then share the letter and forward it.</p>	<p>Dayle Vienneau  Debbie Belgrave  Lei Sun  Dayle Vienneau  Lei Sun  Dayle Vienneau  Lei Sun  Dayle Vienneau  Lei Sun  Dayle Vienneau  Lisa Kuehn</p>
<p><b>6. New Business:</b> <b>Society Board Update</b></p>	<p>Keith Humphreys, new to the role of Chair of Society Board. I have been a part of the community for the last 10 years, my daughter is in grade 9 and I have two boys in grades 5 &amp; 7. There are 8 board members, Bernie Potvin is Vice Board Chair, Graham Thiessen is Treasurer. Remaining members are Candice Johnson, Melanie Wenngatz, Stephen Flight, Caleb Kowalko and Bill Chrietieson.  The Society oversees six areas: Finances, Spiritual Life, Building, Community &amp; Church relationships, Executive Director. We are a Policy Governance Board – John Lucas is the current Executive Director, so he does a lot of the work around the school on behalf of the Board.  For updates, the main discussion as of late is the need for additional space, to further support the teachers, school options, and additional programming at the school.</p>	

<p><b>7. New Business:</b> <b>Update from School Council</b></p>	<p>Divisional Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Div 3 Grade 6-9, Potluck Oct 27 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. There is a sign-up for food, but it is open to everyone so if you can make it just come!</li> <li>• Div 1, Movie Night “The Star” on Sunday November 24 starting at 2:30pm</li> </ul> <p>Parent Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I wanted to get a feel for the types of parent sessions that parents would be interested in. Bullying session, Friendship Powers, Social Networking and Online Safety – Paul Davis.</li> <li>• Ideas can be sent to Lisa and then we can put together a short survey and include it in the memos.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Outstanding tabled actions</b></p>	<p>No outstanding tabled actions</p>	
<p><b>9. New tabled actions</b></p>	<p>No new tabled actions</p>	
<p><b>10. Adjournment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting closed at 7:52pm Next Meeting, January 16, 2024 @ 7:00pm</li> </ul>	

## **Appendix 1 – Board Trustee Report**

### **Board Meeting Highlights from September 10, 2024:**

#### **Home Education Update:**

Palliser School Division's Home Education program has undergone significant changes before, during, and after the pandemic. Prior to the shift to online learning due to COVID-19, only a small number of students were registered in the Division's home education program. However, during the pandemic, enrollment increased dramatically. Although numbers decreased when traditional classrooms reopened, many families chose to continue with home education. This prompted a reimagining of the program, which is operated through Palliser Beyond Borders (PBB).

Under the leadership of Principal Jason Kwasny and Home Education Facilitator Laurie Zienchuk, the program has focused on building a community of families committed to high-quality education and meaningful experiences for their students. Laurie organizes a variety of in-person workshops that cover subjects such as language arts, STEM, and fine arts. The group also participates in field trips and communal learning experiences at venues like libraries. Last year, they hosted two Celebrations of Learning where students showcased their talents and skills.

Palliser School Division is proud to support a home education program of such high caliber, made possible through the dedicated efforts of the PBB team and the participating Home Education families.

#### **Inclusive Education Update:**

In follow-up to the Inclusive Education Services Report from the May 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board, Shane Cranston, Director of Learning presented information on Individual Program Planning (IPP) in the division.

Shane explained the background of why the division adopted a renewed IPP which was to focus on inclusion and build communities of diversity and a culture of belonging. The new system will facilitate better collaboration between staff, families, and students, which aligns with our core belief that students and their families should help shape and inform their educational support plans. Additionally, this platform will streamline communication across Palliser schools, ensuring continuity of support as students transition between grades, schools, and beyond.

The key components of the renewed IPP includes student profiles, the use of "I can" statements, strengthened student/family voice and embedded competencies. Within the parameters of an IPP, students develop goals, strategies are developed and a triangular approach to gathering evidence of learning is used: observation, product and conversation. Shane reviewed a sample IPP with the Board. Please note IPP stands for Individual Program Plan which is a modified Program for the student.

In the previous school year, schools had the choice to pilot the new IPP forms and in the current school year, all schools have transitioned to the new platform from Imagine Everything called Education Forms.

#### **Eliminating Cell Phones and Other Learning Distractions in the Classroom:**

New guidelines from the Government of Alberta require school divisions to restrict access to cell phones and other personal devices during class time. Over the summer, our Division consulted with staff to develop an Administrative Procedure (AP) to guide the implementation of these changes. A survey conducted by the Government of Alberta prior to the new directive revealed strong support for this policy from parents, guardians, educators, and even many students. The Palliser Board of Trustees believes that these changes will benefit student learning and well-being.

For more information on how Palliser School Division is supporting this initiative, please refer to the document: Cell Phone Policy Guidelines on the website. If you would like to know more about how your student's school will implement the policy on cell phones and personal devices, please reach out to your school.

### **Board Meeting Highlights from October 8, 2024:**

#### **Coaldale Prairie Winds School Update:**

Palliser School Division celebrates the opening of Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary (CPWS). The event brought together dignitaries from the Government of Alberta, the

Town of Coaldale, and Lethbridge County, alongside CPWS staff, students, and Palliser Division members, to commemorate this special milestone.

Tyler McNeil, a CPWS student, took on the role of MC, while the high school band set the tone for the day with an impressive performance of Fanfare for the Third Planet. Seeing the halls bustling with students was a proud moment for all those who worked tirelessly to bring this school to life.

Superintendent Dave Driscoll highlighted the journey ahead in his speech, emphasizing the importance of community and culture-building: “I challenge you to take the step forward as staff and students and develop the culture that makes this a great school. Not an amazing building, but a great school that everybody wants to come to.”

Minister Nathan Neudorf presented the official plaque to Palliser Board Chair Lorelei Bexte, marking the school’s formal opening. To further celebrate the occasion, CPWS instructor Chef Clemis and her students prepared a catered lunch, showcasing the school’s commitment to student involvement and practical learning.

The Palliser School Division extended its gratitude to Elder Blanche Bruised Head and Jehrran First Charger for their meaningful contributions to the ceremony, making it a true day of celebration.

**Wellness Update:**

Palliser School Division is pleased that Alberta Education has extended the mental wellness grant for an additional six months. This extension allows the Division to continue building on the foundational support provided to students. The grant has enabled Palliser to partner with community organizations, offering universal and specialized support to students and their families and providing valuable training for our staff.

A key element of this initiative is hiring Joanne Wolochaty as Division Wellness Navigator. Joanne provides wellness programming and resources to all Palliser students, focusing on social and emotional learning and skill-building. She also strongly advocates incorporating more movement throughout the school day. She has developed ‘Daily Physical Activity Kits’ for all our schools to support this. These kits include tools and instructions for quick, evidence-based movement breaks, which help students with emotional regulation and improve focus.

Palliser Wellness teams will develop Wellness Action Plans for each school in the coming weeks. These teams will meet later this month to collaborate on strategies for supporting student wellness. Parents, guardians, and school community members are encouraged to ask about these plans and provide feedback.

For more information about Palliser’s wellness supports, including Family School Liaison Counsellors, Making Connections workers, or Health Champions, please contact our central office ([Inquiries@pallisersd.ab.ca](mailto:Inquiries@pallisersd.ab.ca)).

Please contact Lorelei Bexte if you have any questions or concerns. [Lorelei.bexte@pallisersd.ab.ca](mailto:Lorelei.bexte@pallisersd.ab.ca) (403) 485-0823

## Appendix 2 – Principal’s Report

### What’s Happening?

- 222 students
  - School Theme Verse
    - “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” - Micah 6:8
    - Footprints around the school as a reminder of how we walk in Christ through our day
  - School Life
    - Busy! Awesome!
    - Chapels, field trips, athletics, spirit days, service projects, etc.
    - Clubs (Grades 6-9): Crochet club (already started), Chess club starts Monday, Oct 21, Coding club starts Wednesday, Oct. 23, Student Crew for Book Fair (Grade 6)
  - Staffing Update
    - 2 new teachers - Ms. Brita Pederson (Grade 2) and Mr. Torri Airhart (Grade 7)
    - Mrs. Liyanage is on a leave of absence
    - Mr. Grasmeyer is our new vice principal
    - We are celebrating years of service with Palliser/Menno: Mr. Grasmeyer (30 years), Mrs. McMillan (20 years), Mme. Vienneau (20 years)
  - 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...

- Book Fair, Penny Carnival, and Peace Festival
- P/T Conferences (in-person and virtual options)
  - Please select (and remember) the day with the format you are interested in
  - Wednesday, November 6 - in person from 3:45 - 7:45pm
  - Friday, November 8 - virtual from 9:00am - 12:00pm
- 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 supports in Div 1 & 2
- Student supports:

- Ms. E and Ms. South
- PD focus for staff this year:
  - Mental health and wellness
  - Christian Studies curriculum/goals
  - Assessment strategies
  - Analysis of data (PAT results, literacy/numeracy assessments, OurSchool surveys, assurance surveys)
- Alberta Education Technology Restrictions
  - Very similar to our current cell phone policy
  - Please do not send smart watches, cell phones, etc. to school - students do not always lock their lockers
- Alberta Education Mandated Assessments
  - Mandated literacy and numeracy assessments
  - September - Grades 1-3
  - January - Grades K-3
  - June - only students still “at risk” from K-3
  - Next year... possibly adding Grade 4
  - ***How can our Parent council support?*** By advocating on the school’s behalf to Alberta Education. The time required for each of these assessments is large and it impacts our teacher’s abilities to get the year started with their students. Fortunately, we have AMAZING teachers and EA’s, but it was all hands on deck to try to get everything done and all the data entered by the end of September.
    - Mandatory literacy and numeracy assessments (anywhere from 10 mins-30 mins per student)
    - EAL benchmarks (English as a Second Language benchmarks)
    - IPP reports/goals/parent meetings (by mid October)
  - If you have any specific questions, please feel free to reach out to Mme. Vienneau.
- New Report Card format - [outcomes based reporting](#)