



Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025
Time: 7:00pm to 7:28pm
Meeting Room: Virtual
Facilitator: Lisa Kuehn (Chair)
Timekeeper: Jane Kruger
Minute Taker: Jane Kruger
Attendees: Lisa Kuehn, Dayle Vienneau, Jane Kruger, Kelly Tebbutt, Barby Peterson, Jolene Giesbrecht, Natalia Goncharova, Anna Braun, Esther Bedwell, Heather Patterson, Chelsea Thiessen, Bisi Oladipo, Lei Sun, Melissa Appave, Sonia Molero, Stephanie Schroeder

| | Notes | Speaker |
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| 1. Welcome, Call to order, absence for apologies, introductions. | Jane opens in prayer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 pm. Meeting started | |
| 2. Roll call. | Jane took attendance. 16 people in attendance. | |
| 3. Open Orders of Business: Chair | Motion to approve minutes from last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion to approve the minutes for January 16, 2025, meeting: Lisa Kuehn Jolene approved Second by Lei Sun, all in favour - Passed | Lisa Kuehn |
| 4. New Business: Update from Palliser School Division | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorelei not in attendance, see below for update from Palliser | |

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| <p>5. New Business: Principals Report</p> | <p>Principal Report posted below, see Appendix 2 New SuperIntendant appointed, Tom Hamer. Visited school for a tour and check in, great interaction with the grade 6 class. Sports update Gr 6 floor hockey tournament, fun day! placed 6th Jr Boys won Bronze Jr Girls won Silver Sr Girls won gold Report cards - thank you for completing the survey. Shared with Palliser and then shared with Edsby. Hopefully will have some improvement with features. Parent Feedback was that the comments from teachers was really appreciated. Jr High report card printed odd feedback was shared with Edsby P/T conferences, sign up going out on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Will use same program to book. Alberta Ed assurance surveys for Grade 4 & 7. Encouraged to give feedback as Alberta Ed reports back to school. Closes March 21st School Calendar was approved for the district, Dayle just received and is currently working on. Submitting this week. Ski Day - April 8th Bus finally got moved around noon. Pizza and Slurpees as a reward Spring Drama- all the practices happening May 1,2,3. Charlotte's Web Experience Week - do you have any ideas? Will be during exam week. Last year: Climbing, bowling, swimming, sewing, games, crochet, STEM, Dive Shop?</p> | <p>Dayle Vienneau</p> |
| <p>6. New Business: Society Board Update</p> | <p>Inserted below</p> | <p>Lisa for Keith Humphreys</p> |
| <p>7. New Business: Update from School Council</p> | <p>Paul Davis, coming to talk to Jr High Wednesday, Parent Session 6:30 at Foothills Alliance. Please RSVP. This is a free event to parents, however Parent Council is paying for it</p> <p>Div 3 Lock in May 23rd</p> <p>P/T meal provided by Div 3</p> <p>Next council meeting May 15th</p> | <p>Lisa Kuehn</p> |
| <p>8. Outstanding tabled actions</p> | <p>No outstanding tabled actions</p> | |
| <p>9. New tabled actions</p> | <p>No new tabled actions</p> | |
| <p>10. Adjournment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting closed at 7:28pm Next Meeting, May 15@ 7:00pm | |

Menno School Council Meeting, March 6, 2025

Regular Board Meeting Highlights, February 11, 2025

Information Technology Update:

Esports expansion

Esports continues to grow in popularity, offering regional tournaments and global competition opportunities. To ensure a structured, safe experience for students, the IT team has standardized:

- Game Selection & Safety – Approved, competition-friendly games; high-risk or violent titles excluded.
- Secure Accounts & Software – Guidelines for managing accounts (Steam, Nintendo, etc.).

Additionally, Nintendo Switch consoles are being tested to help smaller schools participate.

Artificial Intelligence in Education

AI presents both opportunities and challenges for education. The Board of Trustees and IT team will continue exploring its impact, ensuring responsible integration into our schools.

Counselling Report:

Our counselling team includes both Family School Liaison Counsellors and Making Connections workers, who play a vital role in supporting our division's goal: 'All Palliser students will engage with the foundational elements of well-being, equipping them with the tools and confidence to lead healthy lives.'

Here are some of the key accomplishments over the past year:

- The HEADSTRONG Mental Health Summit kept school teams engaged.
- Student-led initiatives thrived with \$10,200 in SOARING grants.
- Bell Let's Talk Day was implemented division-wide to support mental wellness.
- Division-wide test anxiety and breakfast programs helped students perform better during exams.

Expanding Family & Student Support

- New emotional support services were launched in two Colony Schools.

- Social-emotional programming is expanding, with four high schools requesting funding for regulation rooms.
- Parenting courses are being piloted virtually.
- ADHD support groups for parents and children introduced.

Looking Ahead: Priorities for Next Year

- Enhancing High School Counselling – Balancing crisis support, drop-in services, and ongoing student counselling.
- Expanding Trauma-Informed Classrooms – Supporting educators in implementing effective strategies.
- Increasing Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) – Strengthening inter-school collaboration to bring SEL into all student development stages.

Board Highlights for Regular Board Meeting March 11, 2025

Human Resources and Payroll Update:

The Board received the Human Resources report, highlighting continued improvements in staff retention for both teaching and support positions. Additionally, there has been a significant increase in the number of teachers registered as substitute teachers, strengthening the Division's ability to provide classroom support.

The Board also received positive updates on support programs for new teachers and those aspiring to leadership roles. These initiatives, led by the Division's Human Resources and Learning Services teams, have received excellent feedback and continue to help attract, develop, and retain high-quality educators within Palliser.

In addition, the Board was pleased to hear about ongoing improvements to the payroll system. The payroll team has been working diligently to streamline processes and enhance efficiency, ensuring all Division staff receive timely and accurate support.

Edwin Parr Nomination Announcement:

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce their 2024/2025 Edwin Parr Award nomination. Rachelle Warchola teaches grade 2 at Jennie Emery Elementary School. Her engaging and hands-on teaching style has impressed staff, parents, and most importantly, students!

The Edwin Parr First Year Teacher Award recognizes outstanding first-year teachers in Alberta who demonstrate excellence in teaching and a strong commitment to student success. The award celebrates emerging educators who make a meaningful impact in their classrooms and communities. Palliser School Division is proud to have many passionate and dedicated new teachers, and Rachelle exemplifies the excellence they bring to schools in the Division.

The next Board Meeting is Scheduled for April 8, 2025

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Lorelei Bexte, lorelei.bexte@pallisersd.ab.ca, (403) 485-0823.

Appendix 2 – Principal’s Report



PRINCIPAL’S REPORT - March 2025

What’s Happening? What’s New?

- Report Cards
 - ◆ Thank you for completing the feedback on report cards
 - ◆ Feedback shows appreciation for teacher comments and online reporting. Some confusion/frustration with learning a new system, figuring out the new indicators, trying to print (JH). We have shared this information with Palliser and Edsby.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - ◆ Similar format with one day in person and one day virtual
 - ◆ Wednesday, March 12 evening (in person) and Friday, March 14 afternoon (virtual)
 - ◆ Booking opens up Monday, March 10 @ 6pm.
- Alberta Education Assurance Survey
 - ◆ Grades 4 & 7 parents
 - ◆ Email with random access code sent from Menno office on February 25
 - ◆ Survey closes March 21
- Palliser will have a new superintendent as of August 2025 - Tom Hamer (he is currently our Deputy Superintendent so he knows Palliser well).
- Enrollment for next school year is strong. Yay! We are so grateful for our Menno families.
- Palliser’s draft calendar for 2025/26 - Important Dates:

- ◆ Sept 2 - First day for students
 - ◆ Nov 10-14 - Fall break/No school
 - ◆ December 20 - Jan 4 - Christmas break
 - ◆ Feb 16-20 - February break/Teachers' Convention
 - ◆ March 21 - April 6 - Spring Break (First day back is Tuesday, April 7)
 - ◆ June 25 - Last day of school for students
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Other Information

- Spring drama production will be Charlotte's Web! Performances will take place on May 1 (evening), 2 (evening), and 3 (matinee). All Grades 6-9 students are welcome to join!
- Ski Days
 - ◆ Grades 4-6 on April 8

Appendix 3 – Society Board **Report**

January 20th we met as a board and the focus was Spiritual Life at Menno, John Lucas our ED, Dayle Vienneau and Marvin Grasmeyer all reported. The theme this year has been "Peacemakers" and it has been a resounding theme in the day to day at Menno. I'm grateful for the intention the school has led in this way for our students.

Other notes worth mentioning

- we are on track for full enrollment next year
- we continue to operate at a balanced budget.

Our next board meeting is soon and will be focused on the budget of the school.