

Board Report for Milo School Council Meeting January 23, 2018

- The budget process is underway and will command a lot of our time over the next few months. We will have a 3 year plan rolling out around April/May. The timing will depend on the budget coming down from the provincial government.
- A resolution was passed to rescind a letter that went out to staff from the previous board on May 12, 2016, outlining communication processes between staff and the board. In light of all the policy changes that have taken place, a new letter was sent to staff before Christmas to reflect these changes and the current board's position. We wish to work collaboratively with all staff, students and parents to develop a school system that encourages safety, equality, inclusive practices and a high level of learning for all. We are encouraging open communication and are looking forward to hearing about all the great things happening in your school & communities. This open dialog is not to replace Proper protocol with issues arising in the school. For example, speaking to the teacher first, if unresolved speak to the principal, if unresolved speak to our superintendent. It is just intended to help us serve our school community better and keep dialog flowing.
- The board was presented with The Facilities Accountability Report. Over the next couple months Dave Driscoll will be meeting with principals to help determine the needs in our schools. They will come up with a long term comprehensive plan for all of our buildings. The plan will look at Energy Savings efficiencies, Occupational Health and Safety, and they are having a second look at the installation of security cameras in the school and the administrative procedures surrounding their use.
- The board was presented with The International Student Services Accountability Report. Tom Hamer spoke of the globalization opportunities for Palliser students. Our Students learn about different cultures, languages and people. Friendships are developed. And of course there is a financial up-side for Palliser and all of our schools. Palliser is growing the international program slowly and intentionally. There is a reciprocal opportunity for students in Japan to come to Canada and have our students go back to Japan. Palliser is focusing on the European Market. Alberta Education assists boards with travel and connections in other countries and we are strengthening our relationships with our agent contacts. Moving forward, Palliser will be limiting the travel on recruitment trips and will only be sending one person.
- We are working on updating the Inclement Weather Policy to clearly define the procedures during inclement weather. A draft policy will be sent to Principals this week to be circulated for Feed back from Teachers, Staff and Parents. It goes without saying, but I will anyway, Parents are always the final decision makers when deciding whether or not to send their children to school.

- The Base School Calendar has been sent to Principals to review and send requests back based on their school needs.
- The board has decided to be a member of the Alberta Rural Caucus. There is no cost to the Board. More than 30 rural school boards in Alberta have joined forces as the Rural School Board Caucus as a way to lobby the provincial government as a group. The caucus normally meets twice a year before the ASBA Annual General Meetings. Lorelei Bexte will represent Palliser at the meetings.

Again if you have any comments, questions, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. My cell is (403) 485-0823 and my email is lorelei.bexte@pallisersd.ab.ca