Milo School Council Meeting January 18, 2022

**Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting, December 14, 2021**

**Michael Willems, Certificate of Excellence Recipient**: The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence have honoured exceptional elementary and secondary school teachers in all disciplines since 1994, with over 1,600 teachers honoured to date. Teaching Excellence Awards recipients are honoured for their remarkable achievements in education and for their commitment to preparing their students for a digital and innovation-based economy. The Teaching Excellence in STEM Awards honour outstanding Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics teachers that help develop the culture of innovation Canada needs today, and in the future. Michael Willems, teacher with Palliser School Division has been recognized for his teaching practices. We congratulate Michael for his service to the students in Palliser.

**Facility Services:** In Palliser Work continues so that Palliser Schools are safe, efficient, organized, clean and comfortable. The maintenance staff are commended for all the work they have done, day in and day out throughout the pandemic. In the coming months schools will see more interactive board installs being completed, more VOIP systems being installed, some flooring installs and LED upgrades. Palliser school custodians are thanked for working so hard to keep our schools clean daily and working hard in the summer to have our schools shine for the first day of school. The Board is looking forward to the New Year watching the new Coaldale School as it is being built.

**Palliser Early Learning Services:** Palliser School Division currently has 227 Early Learning students (3, 4, 5, 6 year olds pre-kindergarten and kindergarten) in its schools. Early Learning educators provide play-based, developmentally appropriate activities to our youngest learners. Children need regular, healthy interactions to build skills and Palliser has an amazing team of Early Learning educators that are creative and passionate about their work to help them build those skills. Thank you to all the Early Learning Educators!

The Board was able to share a Holiday Meal with the Board Office Staff.

The afternoon was spent on Board Orientation. Kristine Cassie came in to help with the orientation session and present a workshop on Risk Management.

**Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting, January 11, 2022**

**School Division Transportation:** Palliser operates 58 daily routes to our division’s schools, transporting 1850 students per day and traveling over 1.9 million kilometers per year. The department’s bus drivers are a major reason for the continued excellent service we are able to provide our students within the division. All regular route drivers have completed “S” endorsement training and must keep their first aid training up to date. All of the buses used for routes and as spares have GPS and tablets with software that tracks not only the bus but also handles the electronic log books, daily inspection and fuel tracking. We would like to thank all our bus drivers for making sure our students get to and from school safely on a daily basis.

**Palliser Board of Trustees and the ATA Local 19:** Twice a year the Board and the executive of the ATA Local 19 meet to discuss matters of mutual interest. The committee met before the break and discussed the terms of reference for the committee, PD days, their positions on the new K-6 curriculum and funding for programs for our youngest learners. Working together will make our division stronger and a great place for our students and our staff.

**Policy Update:** Policies govern the way that the Division operates. The Board is committed to reviewing all the policies on an annual basis. This month the Board is looking at Policy 9 - Board Operations and welcomes any feedback from its stakeholders. https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/board-of-trustees/policy-review

**Deputy Superintendent Appointment:** Tom Hamer will continue as the Deputy Superintendent for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. He is responsible and accountable to the Superintendent and will assume all responsibilities of the Superintendent in the Superintendent’s absence.

The next regular Board Meeting is schedules for February 8, 2022

Any questions/concerns please contact Lorelei Bexte (403) 485-0823