**Milo School Council Meeting September 26, 2022**

**Board Organizational Meeting for the 2022-2023 School Year:**

The Board of Trustees held their Organizational Meeting on August 23, 2022. Trustee Lorelei Bexte will remain as Chair for the upcoming school year. Trustee Tony Montina was acclaimed Vice-Chair and Trustee Debbie Laturnus will assume the role of Alternate Vice-Chair. The Board set their meeting dates for the upcoming year as follows:

September 13, 2022, October 11, 2022, November 29, 2022, December 13, 2022, January 10, 2023, February 14, 2023, March 14, 2023, April 11, 2023, May 9, 2023, June 13, 2023, and August 22, 2023.

**Highlights from the August 23, 2022 Regular Board Meeting:**

**New Area Directors begin at Palliser, two new Area Directors began their roles with the division in August:**

Jackie Kark is the Area Director for the Lethbridge Region. As a life-long learner, Jackie has a strong passion for student-centered learning, inclusivity, collaboration, and academic success with all learners. She believes that every student can and wants to learn and be successful and she looks forward to building connections with staff and school communities in the division.

Mike Thiesen has been appointed Area Director, Calgary Region. Mike joined the Palliser School Division in 2016 when he began as the principal at Calgary Christian Elementary School. Mike has been involved in school initiatives in the areas of literacy, numeracy, technology, parenting programs, report cards, social-emotional learning, school-wide behaviour programs, ELL, and others. Mike looks forward to building continued trust with stakeholders and school leaders from across the division while supporting the unique needs of students.

The Board of Trustees was pleased to welcome Jackie and Mike to the division in person at the August 23, 2022, meeting.

**Value Scoping for the Coalhurst Schools Capital Plan:**

A series of three Value Scoping Meetings were held in June as part of the process set out by Alberta Education to find a solution for the modernization of Coalhurst Schools. The sessions were facilitated by EHan Engineering and included participants from Palliser School Division, Coalhurst Elementary, Coalhurst High School, the Town of Coalhurst, Lethbridge County, the Alberta Legislature, Alberta Education, Alberta Infrastructure, Alberta Health Services, FWBA Architects, and LCVM. The Value Scoping process identified options for delivering K-12 education within the Town of Coalhurst. The Board has received the report and has directed Administration to move forward with the submission of this report to Alberta Education. The recommendation coming out of the Value Scoping sessions is to build a new grade 5-12 school.

**Board Approves Salary Increase for Non-Certificated Staff:**

Based on historical practices of The Palliser School Division, when a settlement occurs with one pay group, consideration of equitable salary increases occurs for all other pay groups in the division. At the August Regular Meeting, The Board of Trustees passed a motion directing Administration to implement a 1.75% salary increase as of September 1, 2022, to employees not covered by a collective agreement. With this motion, the Board reiterated their budget position stated in May 2022.

**Highlights from the September 20, 2021 Board Meeting**

**Board of Trustees Meets with Minister of Education:** The Board of Trustees was pleased to accept an invitation to meet face to face with the Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange, on September 1, 2022, in Taber, AB. The Board brought forward two topics, mental health services and supports in rural Alberta followed by financial matters pertaining to funding and grants. The Minister addressed the Board’s concern about the lack of mental health supports available for rural schools and assured that she has been working with other ministries for collaboration and support. The Minister spoke about the grant opportunities available for mental health supports and suggested that grant money will be available for new initiatives and pilot projects. The Board requested clarification and advance notice on any pending changes to the bridging grant and was assured by the Minister that the ministry is aware of the complexities and is making plans to address them. The Board thanks the Minister for the opportunity to meet to discuss these topics.

**School Calendar and Professional Development for Staff:** Professional Development (PD) Days are designated in the school-year calendar and are aligned with the school scheduling parameters set by Alberta Education which considers the number of mandated teacher working days, instructional hours, and assignable time. Final calendars for each site may look different as schools add PD days based on their own bell schedule. The division has seven site-based days, three of which are scheduled in August and the other four throughout the year, two of which are Teacher Directed Days. Sites set the content of these days to align with their school goals or to work with topics they are passionate about. There are three Divisional PD Days in a school year; Opening Day, Summit Day, and a third district-wide day in the late winter/early spring. Division days are days of staff collaboration for professional and personal development with content set by the Senior Leadership Team in consultation with administrative and teaching staff.

Parents may reference the school calendar on each school’s website. The divisional calendars for the 2022-2023 school year are available on the division’s website through the following links: South Schools Calendar and North Schools Calendar.

**Division Sets Plans in Motion for National Truth and Reconciliation Day:** Plans are in place for recognizing National Truth and Reconciliation Day in the division. As September 30, 2022, is a non-operational day, schools will recognize National Truth and Reconciliation Day on Thursday, September 29, or Monday, October 3. Central Office will pay recognition on Monday, October 3. In the past, the focus was on one day, but now recognition will take place throughout the week and throughout the year as schools build connections with elders and knowledge keepers. Throughout the division, teachers are collaborating and sharing many great ideas and activities to recognize this day which includes such initiatives as land-based learning activities taking place during a Professional Development activity on Friday, September 23. The Board looks forward to welcoming to the division a new Indigenous Services Coordinator whose work with all schools will be valued and appreciated.