**Milo School Council Meeting January 23, 2023**

**Board Highlights from the November 29, 2022 Meeting:**

**Audited Financial Statements 2021-2022:** The Audit Committee met with the audit company, KPMG LLP on November 23, 2022, and reviewed the audited financial statements for the 2021-2022 school year. At the Committee's recommendation, the Board accepted the auditor’s report at the November 29, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board. The audited financial statements will be sent to the Alberta Government and are available on the division website.

**Palliser Home Education Program:** The Board received a report on the enrollment and success of the division's Home Education program. The division continues to focus on this program of excellence. The Home Education teacher offers personalized support for all kinds of learners and develops a sense of community. The division continues to work on growing a quality program that benefits all students’ learning.

**On-line learning:** Online learning student registration data was also presented. In 2020-2021, 625 students were learning online and 566 transitioned to Palliser schools and 92 transitioned to PBB at the end of the year. In 2021-2022 there were 227 students learning online with 172 returning to Palliser schools at the end of the year and 9 transitioning to PBB. The summary of analysis for this data over the past two school years shows that with students who went online, the majority came back to Palliser Schools.

**Attendance Data at Palliser Schools:** The division is tracking absences due to illness rates. Palliser will continue participating in the Alberta Public Health Surveillance and Infrastructure Reporting which monitors weekly absenteeism. In keeping with the protocol and request by Alberta Health Services (AHS), schools will report to AHS when the absence rate due to illness reaches ten percent of the student population. Alberta Health Services will make recommendations to schools if additional measures are warranted. To date, AHS has made no recommendations. Daily health reporting and illness guidance documents will be available on the division website in the near future.

**Indigenous Success Coordinator Meets Board of Trustees:** Kylie Fineday was introduced to the Board of Trustees at the November 29, 2022, Regular Meeting of the Board. Kylie began in her role as Indigenous Success Coordinator in October 2022 and has since been building relationships with schools and learning where they are on their journey of Indigenous knowledge. Kylie is happy to support the continued efforts toward Indigenous education and inclusivity. The Board was pleased to meet Kylie in person and welcomed her to the division.

**School Draft Calendar:** On November 30, 2022, the draft 2023/2024 Calendar has been shared with Principals, School Council Chairs, and our local ATA President. A survey has been sent to each stakeholder group to collect their feedback. Feedback is requested back by December 23, 2022.

**Board Highlights December 13, 2022 Board Meeting**

**Early Learning Education:** Palliser School Division’s Early Learning Programs provide quality, caring, supportive, and play-based educational opportunities. There are 226 Early Learning Students registered for the 2022-2023 school year, higher than projected. As a dedicated group of committed individuals, the Early Learning Team, made up of Early Learning Educators, Learning Support Teachers, school administration, and multidisciplinary teams, is dedicated to serving children. The team faces current challenges posed by the increased number of students who need support, especially with speech and language. This school year, professional development opportunities provided for Early Learning Educators, Learning Support Teachers, and Educational Assistants are focused on early literacy and numeracy acquisition and in the new year, a professional development session on Autism Spectrum Disorder will be available to the Early Learning Team and division staff.

**Facility Services**: Facility Services works to ensure a safe, efficient, organized, clean and comfortable environment where Palliser students can achieve their academic potential and staff can maximize their teaching efforts. Several projects completed throughout the division in the past year include the installation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone infrastructure, the installation of security cameras, upgrades to boiler systems, and concrete work for accessibility and improved safety. Schools use the Asset Planner system to submit service requests, allowing Facilities to efficiently track and prioritize requests, and ensuring the safety of students and staff at all times. The construction of the new Coaldale School is on schedule and notable progress has been made to the exterior. Interior walls are being erected, and electrical and mechanical rough-ins are in progress. The school is scheduled to open in the fall of 2024.

**International Student Program**: There is a renewed interest in the International Student program following the pandemic. The demand has been great and the division has entered into a shared responsibility agreement with Prairie Rose School Division and Black Gold School Division. There has been significant growth in applications from several European, Asian, and South American countries. There are currently 12 schools hosting 144 students from 13 countries. A part-time homestay coordinator and an activity coordinator have been hired, with both positions being great additions to the ever-growing program. The application and registration process has already begun for the 2023-2024 school year and indications are that registrations will surpass pre-pandemic levels. Reciprocal exchange opportunities have been created for students from Chile and Japan and a reciprocal opportunity with Spain is underway. There is increased interest in international students attending the Palliser schools in Calgary and work with the societies is continuing

**Board Highlights January 10, 2023**

**Palliser School Division Transportation:** The Palliser Student Transportation Department operates and maintains a safe, economical and efficient system in accordance with provincial acts and regulations, Board policies, and Division administrative procedures. Palliser owns a fleet of 81 buses and operates 56 routes transporting 1,800 students daily and traveling over 1.9 million kilometers annually. Excellent service is provided by professional drivers, who complete “S” endorsement training and maintain first aid training, licensing, and re-training requirements. Routes are developed using Versatrans routing software and all units are outfitted with GPS and cameras. The department operates two repair facilities, one in Lethbridge and one in Vulcan, staffed by four full-time mechanics. The fleet is diligently maintained in compliance with safety requirements mandated by the province and is inspected by Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. The “Think of Us on the Bus” public awareness campaign, in partnership with local law enforcement, continues to improve school bus safety for students, drivers, and the motoring public at large. Student assemblies across the division promote bus safety to all students. In 2021-2022, revenue from field trips are similar to previous years. The 2022-23 Quarter One revenues and expenses indicate that the department is in line with the budget.

**Occupational Health and Safety Report**: Palliser School Division is committed to providing students with safe and caring learning environments and is committed to the health and safety of all students and staff. Safety is a foundational requirement to ensure students can learn. Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Facilities collaborate to ensure compliance with safety requirements and codes. The Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator performs site inspections and works closely with the Facilities department to ensure corrective actions are completed in a timely manner and that education continues for employees. The division uses Public School Works for safety training and all division employees complete mandatory safety modules each year. Safety is everyone’s responsibility and OH&S follows up immediately on any reported safety issues. The OH&S Safety Coordinator works closely with the insurance provider to arrange site inspections and follow-ups.

**Annual Education Results Report**: School authority planning and results reporting is a continuous improvement cycle. Alberta’s Assurance Framework is about building public trust and confidence that the education system is meeting the needs of students and enabling their success. School authorities develop education plans that identify priories, outcomes, measures, and strategies to improve in key areas. The Annual Education Results Report (AERR) provides the results achieved from implementing the plan. In the 2021-2022 Palliser AERR, the three Palliser goals of wellness, numeracy, and literacy are presented within the five assurance domains of Student Growth and Achievement, Teaching and Leading, Learning Supports, Governance, and Local and Societal Context. The Board of Trustees has approved the AERR and the report is available on the district website.

The next Board Meeting is February 14, 2023

Please contact Lorelei Bexte (403) 485-0823 should you have any questions or concerns.