**Milo School Council Meeting April 24, 2023 School Council Meeting**

**Board Meeting, March 14, 2023**

**Human Resource Services**: The Human Resource (HR) Services Department provides support and services in a multitude of areas including employee on-boarding, teacher and support staff allocations, employee contracts, and substitute and casual employee processes. HR Services coordinates professional development, union negotiations, workplace investigations and staff evaluations. The team serves 1761 employees and casual/sub employees across the division including 1101 contracted employees (613 Certificated Staff, 488 Support Staff), and 660 casual employees and substitute teachers. Approximately 5300 tasks were completed by HR Services in the past year. HR Services plays a key role in preparing proposals for the bargaining process with the Alberta Teachers’ Association and CUPE Local 290. Several areas of focus for 2022-2023 include updating Administrative Procedures, facilitating the Aspiring Leaders program, reviewing current evaluation processes, reviewing onboarding and preparing for the HR Management System, Edsembli, migration. The division is grateful for the dedication of the HR Team.

**Family School Liaison Counselling Program:** The Family School Liaison Counselling (FSLC) team supports students in mental health and wellness. Areas of support include anxiety, depression, grief and loss, symptoms of trauma, education issues, peer issues and crisis support, to name a few. Fifteen full and part time FSLCs and 4 practicum students make up the team. Government grant funding promised in Fall 2022 has allowed for increased access to mental health support for student, family, and school team(s) and has allowed the division to hire a Youth Systems Navigator, two Family Systems Navigators and a Consulting Clinical Psychologist to increase the supports available. Moving forward, there will be continued emphasis on providing adequate staffing to meet the growing needs of our staff and students and on community collaboration and partnerships to ensure our students and families feel supported.

**Palliser Joins Southern Alberta Pathways Partnership**: Five school divisions from Southern Alberta, along with Palliser, have formed a partnership with Lethbridge College, Career Transitions, local business, and industry partners. The Southern Alberta Pathways Partnership is a collaborative effort that has created a career pathways model that leads students through a series of exploratory and dual credit courses, allowing them to explore potential careers, engage them in learning at the college level and experience hands-on learning. The Board is pleased to support this initiative that inspires Alberta’s youth to pursue skilled trades and technologies as viable career pathways.

**Board Approves 2023-2026 Capital Plan:** The 2023-2026 Capital Plan was approved by the Board. Finding a solution for projected overcrowding at Coalhurst Elementary and underutilization at Coalhurst High School is the first priority of the division. Right-sizing County Central High in Vulcan and modernizing Sunnyside School are the next priorities. The full capital plan is available online at 2023-2026 Capital Plan.

**Board Meeting Highlights for April 18, 2023**

**Palliser Raises Funds for Terry Fox Foundation:** The Terry Fox Foundation has sent a letter of thanks to the Palliser School Division acknowledging the tremendous generosity of Palliser school communities in support of the 2022 Terry Fox Run. Eighteen Palliser schools raised over $13,000 for the Foundation. The Board was thanked for its leadership in encouraging philanthropy and looks forward to working with the division in continuing Terry’s Marathon Hope in the fall of 2023.

**Mental Health Pilot Project in Full Swing:** Positive mental health is a critical component of academic success and as such, Alberta Education has provided an investment to support mental health pilots in school and enhance existing efforts. Palliser is a recipient of funding that will increase student access to mental health supports and resources. The funding provides for a multi-tiered approach over two years to assist with the delivery of mental health supports for families in the division. With the assistance of the division’s Wellness Navigator, the team of Family School Liaison Counsellors (FSLCs), Making Connections Workers and partnerships with Alberta Health Services and other external agencies, needs are identified and resources and support are made available to families in need.

**Literacy and Numeracy Update:** Dr. Adam Browning, Director of Learning, presented the annual report on Literacy and Numeracy. The report covered the work the Division has done in the 2022-23 school year, including developing an assurance framework for literacy. This framework supports schools with research based assessments and interventions. Palliser students from Grades 1 to 4 have demonstrated significant growth in early reading and numeracy measures. Teachers and administrators from across Palliser will participate in a division-wide literacy and numeracy symposia in May, 2023. Looking to the 2023-24 school year, the Division will continue to support the literacy assurance framework and establish a numeracy assurance model to support schools with assessments and interventions.

The next Board Meeting is May 9, 2023

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