**Board Report for Milo School Council Meeting Sept 14, 2023**

**Any questions or concerns please contact Lorelei Bexte (403) 485-0823.**

**Organizational/Regular Meeting of the Board August 22, 2023**

**Board Chair, Vice Chair and Alternate Vice Chair:**

Along with the monthly Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees held our organizational meeting. Trustee Lorelei Bexte will remain as Chair for the upcoming school year. Trustee Tony Montina was acclaimed as Vice Chair and Debbie Laturnus will keep the role of Alternate Vice-Chair.

**Opening Day**

Superintendent Dave Driscoll provided Information on our Opening Day, Which took place on August 31, 2023. We shared in a special kick off day with all employees of the division and celebrated the first staff day of the 2023-2024 school year with a keynote address from Canadian educator, Kevin Lamoureux on the topic of Seizing the Magical Opportunity of School as a place of healing. Our division is looking forward to an amazing year.

**Locally Developed Courses**

The Board recently approved some new locally developed courses (LDCs). School Authorities can develop or acquire these courses to address student and/or community needs. These learning opportunities complement, extend, and/or expand upon provincial programs of study. All locally developed courses (elementary, junior high, and high school) require school authority approval by resolution of the Board or governing body before offering the locally developed course to students. The Palliser Board has authorized the use of over 125 courses. The most recently approved course is Neuropsychology.

**The Board Considers ASBA Motion Regarding Kindergarten**

The Alberta School Boards Zone 6 has been consulting with Boards in their zone regarding full day, full week, fully funded kindergarten. The Zone is looking for feedback on a position statement they wish to put forward at the ASBA Fall general meeting to advocate to the Government to make this change. The Palliser Board of Trustees has been carefully reviewing its beliefs regarding offering full-day kindergarten and has asked the division administration about the feasibility and impact of providing a full day of learning. The Board will also be consulting with educational partners, including parents and caregivers in our communities to understand their thoughts on the matter. An initial review suggests that space, employee talent, and educational benefits would make full day kindergarten both feasible and beneficial. However, a full day curriculum with rich learning activities and additional funding would be required to make this a reality. The Board also acknowledges and respects the diverse group of communities that it serves and would support parents’ and caregivers’ choice in sending their children to full day kindergarten. A change of this magnitude would likely take place over a long period of time, but at this juncture, the Board feels it is worth further investigation of full day kindergarten.

**Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2023/24**

The following dates will be established as regular meeting dates for the 2023-2024 term. All meetings will be held at the Palliser Education Centre, #101, 3305 - 18 Avenue North, Lethbridge, Alberta.  All meetings are held on a Tuesday and scheduled from 9am to 4pm. September 12, 2023, October 10, 2023, November 14, 2023, November 28, 2023, Dec2023, October, January 16, 2024, February 13, 2024, March 12, 2024, April 9, 2024, May 14, 2024, June 11, 2024

**Regular Meeting of the Board September 12, 2023:**

**Appointment of the Deputy Superintendent**

The Board of Trustees are pleased to announce that Tom Hamer, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services, will be the Deputy Superintendent. The Deputy Superintendent will assume the Superintendent’s roles and responsibilities when the Superintendent is unavailable or as assigned by the Superintendent.

**2023 Canadian School Boards Association Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education Report**

Palliser School Division Trustees Lorelei Bexte, Tony Montina and Louise Schmidt attended a Gathering on Indigenous Education in Banff. The theme was “Leading the Path Forward”. Our three Trustees attended sessions on engaging communities when making tough decisions, using innovative governing practices, and community connection through meaningful partnerships. The event was a wonderful learning opportunity, and the Board looks forward to sharing this learning with the Division as the year progresses.

**Financial Update 2022-2023 School Year**

Cindy Rogers, Director of Finance provided an interim financial report as of August 31, 2023, for the 2022-2023 school year. There is a projected surplus of $1.6 million. The board had approved a $753,000 deficit budget. Increased government funding of $2.0 million, which includes an anticipated clawback reduction of $973,000 has contributed to the surplus. Year end financial entries are anticipated to not greatly affect the projected surplus for this year.

The next regular Board Meeting will be on October 10th, 2023.

Respectfully submitted.

Lorelei Bexte