**Milo School Council Meeting, February 27, 2024**

**Board Meeting Highlights February 13, 2024**

**School Counselling Report**: Our Board received this update report highlighting the Division's efforts and achievements in supporting our students' mental well-being, one of our top priorities. In the face of post-pandemic challenges, we have strived to meet these needs through dedicated funding, creative solutions, and a caring, committed staff.

The Division has celebrated many successes thanks in part to a mental health grant received in 2022. These include staff training in social-emotional skills development, the implementation of programs that connect students with supportive communities and providing expert-level assessment and care. Despite these achievements, the impending expiration of the grant presents a new challenge. The Board is now exploring various options to continue supporting our students' mental well-being effectively.

**Technology Services Report:** In the realm of technology, our division continues to navigate a landscape of underfunding, particularly evident in our struggle to fund the Supernet bandwidth increase. Currently, we are incurring an additional $11,000 per month beyond our allocated provincial grant funding. As software platforms increasingly move online, the necessity for robust infrastructure becomes more critical for our schools and students. Another pressing concern is cybersecurity, with the rise of more sophisticated threats demanding enhanced protective measures. Despite these hurdles, our IT team has made significant strides this school year. The adoption of data analytics tools like "Google Looker Studio" is a notable advancement. These tools enable our learning services team to analyze big-picture trends and refine strategies to enhance student learning.

**Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary:** Recently, our Board had the opportunity to witness the transformation of Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary firsthand. Members of the Board and representatives from the Town of Coaldale toured the school and adjacent recreation center. This state-of-the-art facility will be a community hub and embody our commitment to providing exceptional learning environments. We are pleased that our students will have convenient access to the recreation centre. As we eagerly anticipate the opening of this facility for the 2024/2025 school year, we are proud to offer such a dynamic and engaging space for our students.

The next regular Board Meeting will be on March 12, 2024

Respectfully Submitted Lorelei Bexte

If you have any questions/concerns please contact me at lorelei.bexte@pallisersd.ab.ca.

 (403)485-0823