

## Trinity School Council February 2023

Board highlights from December and January Board Meetings

Palliser School Division's **Early Learning Programs (3-5 years old)** provide caring, supportive and play-based learning opportunities. There are 226 Early Learning Students registered for the 2022-2023 school year, higher than projected. The Early Learning Team is made up of Educators, Support teachers, school administration and multidisciplinary teams. The Team faces challenges posed by the increased number of students who need support with speech and language. Professional development sessions have focused on early literacy and numeracy, and will offer a session on Autism Spectrum Disorder early in the new year.

**Facility Services** works to ensure a safe, clean, and comfortable environment where students and staff can achieve to their full potential. Several projects have been completed, including the installation of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), security cameras, upgrades to boiler systems and concrete work to improve safety. Schools use the Asset Planner System to submit service requests, allowing the Facility team to track and prioritize requests.

There is a renewed interest in the **International Student Program** since the pandemic. Palliser has entered into a shared agreement with Prairie Rose School Division (Medicine Hat) and Black Gold School Division (Edmonton area) to provide more opportunities for international students applying from several European, Asian and South American countries. A part-time homestay coordinator and an activity coordinator have been hired for the ever growing program. Palliser currently has 12 schools hosting 144 students from 13 countries. Applications have begun for the 2023-2024 school year with great enthusiasm.

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. The department operates two repair facilities, one in Lethbridge and one in Vulcan, staffed by four full-time mechanics. 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.

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 and perform site inspections regularly. The division uses Public School Works for safety training and all division employees complete mandatory safety modules each year.

School authority planning and results reporting is a continuous improvement cycle. School authorities develop education plans that identify priorities, 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.