

**DDS School Council Meeting**  
**Monday, January 15 at 3:45pm**  
**In Person & Virtual Meeting**

**Attendance:** Crystal McGregor, Mandy Zeinstra, Lori Neufeld, Crystal Neels, Mike Oliver, Laurell Greene, Michelle Marti, Willow Baarda, Janae Emond, Danielle Ross.

- **Welcome & Call to Order:** 3:45pm
- **Agenda:** Approved by Danielle
- **Previous Minutes:** attached to email. Approved by Laurell
- **Business arising from previous minutes:** No business arising.
- **New Business:** Thank you to Mike and Palliser for listening to concerns and developing and carrying out a new bus policy in regards to the cold weather. Mike will pass this on to the board.
- **Principal's Report (Crystal McGregor):**
  - Because of most people joining online, Crystal will hold off on going through the Education Results until February's meeting.
  - Crystal spoke with Tom Hamer (Palliser Learning Services) about getting the outside sign up and running. He guided her through how to make a proposal for funding. Some steps include consulting parents on which features and functions they would like to see and contacting town to check the bylaws regarding things like digital signs. Some questions would be: Do we want to include community partners (example: Soccer registration announcement)? Software fees would apply and would be the school's responsibility to cover. It will be a 1-2 year process which Crystal is willing to see through if it is something we are wanting to get done. Mike suggested talking to PBHS as they had their sign repaired recently. Crystal will gather ideas and costs.
  - Mini Volleyball has started for the grades 4, 5 and 6 students. The turnout has been great. There will be an 'end of season' tournament during school on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Trustee's Report (Mike Oliver):** Full report attached. Additional notes:
  - Sadly there was not enough students to form a junior high basketball team at PBHS
  - Palliser budget is still in more of a deficit than anticipated. One of last year's goals was the increase EA wages to make Palliser a competitive place to be employed but they are needing to increase wages further to make that happen. The goal is to be able to keep valued EA staff. Mental health continues to be a large cost with even more needed to put towards mental health support.
- **Hot Lunch Report (Laurell Greene):** 1 more hot lunch happening this month. Sloppy joes on January 25<sup>th</sup>. For February there will be pasta on the 8<sup>th</sup> and stroganoff on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Mandy is not able to help on the 8<sup>th</sup> so this day Laurell could especially use more help. Even if it's just at 11:00 for serving.

- **Treasurer's Report (Mandy Zeinstra):** There will be \$495 in the account when all of the hot lunch costs are caught up.

- **Betterment Report:** Casino account \$15808.95, general account \$31388.95.

- DDS teachers have compiled a wish list for items need to spend the casino money before the deadline. Michelle has asked that they prioritize it so we can make sure the most urgent items get purchased and go from there. We will go through the list at the February meeting.

- **Around the table:** Willow asked how the new counsellor was working out if/how she was being utilized. Crystal expressed how pleased she has been with Reese and what a great fit she has been to DDS. She has been working with kindergartens as a group as well as other more targeted situations. She is at DDS two full days a week but can come more if she is needed. She spends her other days at PBHS.
- Palliser will be looking at the draft calendar for 2024/2025 tomorrow and going through feedback.

- **Adjournment:** @ 4:34, Next Meeting February 26<sup>th</sup> @ 3:45. This would have been the later meeting but attendance is higher at the earlier meetings.

Look @ slides that Jackie should be providing in follow up.

Jan 15, 2024  
Trustee Report  
Michael Oliver

Dr. Chris Mattatall U of L.

What every Parent wishes someone had told them about how their child's brain works

- Could use him to use funds  
\$250 min - Does not ask for Per diem  
- Join with PBYS - get bigger turnout  
Mindset & Inner Speech

### Facilities report

Rob Swartzenberger, Facility Services Supervisor, presented the Facilities Accountability Report for the period December 2022 to November 2023. He shared a number of projects that have been completed in the past year. (A complete list of projects was listed in the agenda). Of note, doorbell/camera systems have been installed at all schools, allowing schools the ability to see who is at the door before granting them access to the building. Roof inspections took place at several sites to determine budgeting costs for future repairs. Heating, plumbing, electrical and IT repairs take place as needed. The division is compliant with all required annual inspections. Division-wide safety training is offered through Public School Works. Facilities received just under 1,300 work orders from division owned facilities between December 2022 and November 2023. The software platform, Asset Planner, allows Facilities to track and triage requests and a 5-step priority labeling system is applied to all work requests received. Urgent or emergent situations are rectified immediately. The new Coaldale School is continuing on schedule with interior finishes taking place currently. The Facilities Services department is excited about the completion of the building so the division can welcome students to the building in September 2024.

Rod shared pictures of some of the projects that have taken place over the past year. These repairs and upgrades have addressed safety issues and have allowed for safer, cleaner and more inviting learning environments for students and staff.

Rod was thanked for his presentation and for the hard work he and the maintenance team do to keep buildings and grounds safe.

### Early Learning Report

Shari Rogerson, Coordinator of Learning, and Dr. Adam Browning, Director of Learning, presented the Early Learning Accountability Report. Early Learning Programs (ELP) provide quality, play-based programming for community-based 3 and-4 year-olds, emphasizing a language-rich learning environment beneficial for English as an Additional Language students and students with identified speech and language delays. ELPs provide early intervention for students with identified needs and an opportunity to begin schooling at an age when students' brains are developing at a rapid rate. Skill development includes:

- Literacy
- Speech and language
- Numeracy
- Social skills and expectations

- Self-regulation, motor, cognitive, social, problem solving

EPLs prioritize an inclusive environment with peer role modeling. Attending an Early Learning Program helps children transition to Kindergarten and build a positive attitude towards life-long learning. The enrollment in EPLs for the 2023-2024 school year is 226 students. Noticeable trends indicate a marked

increase in students who need support, especially in speech where there is a likely correlation to the lingering effects of school shut-downs during COVID. Reduction in government funding has affected Program Unit Funding (PUF) which affects overall Educational Assistant support and teaching staff. Changes in PUF qualification guidelines continue to affect the number of students who qualify for PUF. Grants available for private and licensed preschool and daycares affect the division's enrollment but there is continued emphasis on promoting programming to boost enrollment. Ways to promote ELPs are continually being examined to ensure the division is reaching as many families as possible. Currently, print materials targeting English as an Additional Language families are distributed through partnerships with community partners such as doctors' offices, health clinics and churches. The division also purchases radio and newspaper ads to promote public awareness. Future goals include collaboration with surrounding districts to develop a common framework and developmental benchmarks. The Early Learning Team includes Early Learning Educators, Learning Support Teachers, school administration, and multidisciplinary teams. The division offers a variety of professional development sessions for ELP staff including a conference in the Spring of 2024. Shari was thanked for her presentation and her work and dedication to the Early Learning Program.

#### **International Students Report**

Tom Hamer, Deputy Superintendent, presented the international students accountability report, highlighting program growth and development. The addition of a homestay coordinator and a student activities coordinator has allowed the division to increase the level of support and follow-up to students as they integrate into schools. The International Student Coordinator has increased focus on the program, accommodating check-ins with students, schools and host families support which has minimized issues, allowing students to have a rewarding experience. Increased support at the school level has allowed students to integrate more seamlessly into the school culture and activities. With the addition of the International Student Activities Coordinator, expanded activities can be offered for the students like hockey games, football games, trips to the Royal Tyrrell Museum and colony visits. The implementation of

a digital English Language Assessment tool provides additional insight into the level of English students have upon arrival which has resulted in additional EA support to the schools when necessary. An experiential learning experience has been developed to provide English Language Learning support for Japanese students. Students participated in many activities at the Palliser office and took part in wall climbing, Nikka Yuko Japanese Gardens as well as preparing meals. Very positive feedback was received and the division will continue to use this model with future student groups.

There is increased interest from international students to study in Southern Alberta. There has been continued growth in applicants from Spain, Chile, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Nigeria, the Philippines, and South Korea. Students from Brazil will be welcomed back in the second semester. Japanese students will be welcomed for both short and long-term stays. The application and registration process has already begun for the 2024-2025 school year and there is continued growth in the program moving into the next school year. The International program continues to expose Albertan students to a variety of cultures and is inspiring them to travel. A group of 5 students from R.I. Baker Middle School and Kate Andrews High School are participating in a reciprocal exchange with students from the Teruel region of Spain. The Spanish students arrived in Canada in September 2023 for 5 weeks and the Coaldale school students will travel to Spain in March 2024 for four weeks. Reciprocal exchanges with students from Italy, Sweden, Argentina and France are being explored.

The recruitment team attended face-to-face recruitment fairs in 2023 in Europe, South America, and Japan. There is a significant increase in interest in attending Calgary schools and work continues with the societies to streamline the application process.