

DDS School Council Meeting

Monday, April 15 at 3:45pm

In Person & Virtual Meeting

Attendance: Online: Stephanie Winch, Crystal Neels, Willow Baarda. In person: Rory and Ashley Mcleod, Ashley Cleghorn, Ashley Angenent, Laurell Greene, Mandy Zeinstra, Danielle Ross, Michelle Marti, Crystal McGregor, Julie Milne, Jodi Gurr, Crystal VanRaay, Cristina Fehr, Avelina Guenter.

- **Welcome & Call to Order @ 345**

- **Agenda:** Approved by Laurell

- **Previous Minutes:** attached to email. Approved by Mandy

- **Hot Lunch Report (Laurell Greene):** April 25 will be chilli and a bun. There is sufficient help. There has been a lot of people offer to help, hoping to be able to do two groups next year so everyone doesn't have to come to every hot lunch. Juice is going well. The kids don't seem to be missing it and it has been easier for the teachers as well as the hot lunch moms.

- **Principal's Report (Crystal McGregor):** There is music therapy happening this week. Andrew with Pathway music will be working mostly with the early learners. There will also be therapeutic drumming happening Thursday afternoon for students. The staff will also be taking part Thursday after school. This is an FCSS sponsored program.

-Provincial achievement tests will be happening for Grade 6 students soon. Numeracy and English Language Arts have been cancelled due to the new curriculum and moved to a pilot study. Grade 6's at DDS will be taking part in the pilot. There will still be PAT's for Social Studies and Science.

-Developmental check ups taking place this Friday as well as May 24th for the early learning students coming up next school year.

-Last meeting we discussed the November 1st site based PD day. PBHS not in favor of this date. St. Catherines has chosen November 8th. Council is still in favor of November 1st, Crystal will work on this.

-Field trips and busing have been coordinated for this year. The \$5000 from school council should cover everything.

Danielle motioned to spend \$5000 for student field trips, Mandy seconded, all in favor.

-Grades 1 and 2 are going to Nikka Yuko Japanese gardens, Grades 3 and 4 are going to Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump and the Fort Macleod spray park, Grade 5's are going to Fort Whoop up and Grade 6 is going to Frank Slide, the Bellevue Mine and ending with a sleep over at the school. The Grade 6 sleep over will be on May 30th.

- **Trustee's Report (Mike Oliver):** Attached.

-Discussion regarding time table: Palliser is proposing 'recess' for Junior High and High School Students. This would mean a 15 minute break in the morning and afternoon, as well as a 45 minute lunch break. Crystal brought and sent out the studies Palliser has regarding how it would be beneficial for the students to have mental health breaks. This would mean a longer day on Friday. It is still unclear how this will affect the school hours but will mean a later dismissal on Friday in order to maintain instructional time. No one in attendance was in favor of this due to more school hours for Elementary students as well as possible implications on mental health for Junior High students having more unstructured 'free' time that could be used negatively. Mike Oliver will take feedback back to the next Palliser meeting.

- **Treasurer's Report (Mandy Zeinstra):** Same as last meeting. Waiting for payments and to pay Laurell for Hot Lunch items.

- **Betterment Report:** No change from last meeting. Looking for new members and to have a meeting soon. Please contact Michelle if anyone is interested in joining the betterment society.

- **Council Business:**

Engagement Grant:

a) Alison Lux Art evening - \$150/hr plus supplies (could include children)

b) Smudge Art Studio – \$468 for 12 artists, 1 hr 11x14 canvas to include children. \$39 for additional

artists up to a max 30, plus \$75 mileage fee.

-Council agreed to go with Alison Lux. Crystal VanRaay will coordinate this. Hoping to possibly break up the evenings and have separate nights for Divisions 1 and 2. If anyone has any ideas on what activities to do that would be great. Alison can do many different projects. Hoping to spend the full amount between paying Allison for her time and supplies.

Ashley Cleghorn motioned to spend \$1500 from the engagement grant for this. Laurell seconded, all in favor.

Administrative Professional Day – Gift for Crystal S

-Agreed to do the same as previous years (\$75 gift card to Cattlemans Chop House)

Mandy motioned to spend the \$75, Ashley Cleghorn seconded, all in favor.

Education Week – Staff lunch \$25/person plus GST from Cattlemen's (Protein, seasonal veggies &

potatoes)

-Everyone agreed to continue with this again this year. Tuesday May 14th works best for staff. They will need about 5 parents to help at recess that day while the staff enjoys their lunch. Please let Michelle know if you can help.

Mandy motioned to spend \$700 on lunch, Crystal VanRaay seconded, all in favor.

-Stage lighting

2 LED 4 rack with basic controller and stand, 1 slightly more advanced controller, 3 data cables and

commissioning of system = approx \$2500

-Everyone in favor of putting in the stage lighting.

Crystal VanRaay motioned to spend \$2500, Ashley Cleghorn Seconded, all in favor.

Around the table:

-AGM will happen prior to the next meeting. All positions are open for nominations.

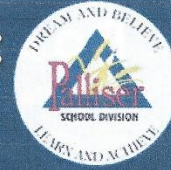
Needing to fill the treasurer position as Mandy will be stepping down, as well as Chairperson as Michelle would like to step down into a supportive role for her last couple of years.

Please let Michelle know if you would like to fulfill a position or nominate someone.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:49, Next Meeting Monday May 27th @ 3:45pm

Board Meeting Highlights:

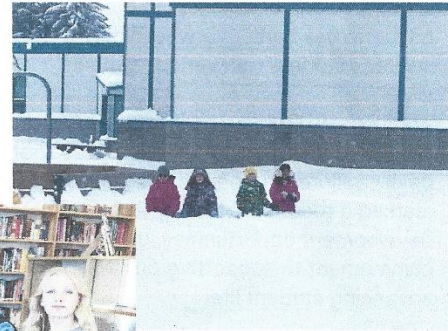
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: April 9, 2024



Enhancing Wellness through Scheduled Breaks

Recognizing the increasing stress and anxiety among both students and staff, the Division is introducing longer breaks during the school day. Research underscores the importance of recess and breaks for active play, social skills development, and academic performance enhancement. These pauses also offer students and staff valuable opportunities for socialization and relationship building. To support workplace wellness, staff will benefit from scheduled, unstructured time to foster connections among colleagues.

Senior Leadership has asked Division principals to incorporate a 15-minute break into the morning and afternoon schedule and a 45-minute lunch break by the 2025/2026 school year. Implementation will be supported while ensuring engagement with school families to consider the local context and community needs.



Interim Financial Statement

The Interim Financial Statement was presented to the Board of Trustees. The approved deficit for the 2023/2024 school year was \$1.6M. The projected deficit now is \$1,547,207. The Division will continue to look for ways to reduce the deficit. See more information here: [Palliser School Division 2023/2024 Budget](#)

CONTACT US

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The next regular Board Meeting will be on May 14, 2024

Board Meeting Highlights:

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD: April 9, 2024



Learning Services Report: Literacy

The Palliser School Division has experienced remarkable growth in literacy, with an increasing number of students meeting grade-level standards annually over the past four years. Dr. Adam Browning, responsible for literacy within the Division, credits this success to the dedication and skill of our teachers. Despite ongoing debates over teaching methodologies, which can distract from educational objectives, Browning emphasizes that the key lies in providing teachers with a varied toolkit of evidence-based practices.

This year, in collaboration with the University of Lethbridge, the Division launched a research initiative aimed at pinpointing the specific needs of teachers in the literacy teaching process. The outcome has been overwhelmingly positive, yielding numerous success stories from various schools.

Additionally, literacy leaders in the Division have created a new reading assessment tool to better evaluate reading skills and devise tailored support strategies for students. This school year marked a record in offering literacy-related professional development opportunities, underscoring the Division's commitment to supporting our teachers' exemplary efforts in advancing student literacy.



Learning Services Report: Numeracy

This year has also brought significant advancements in numeracy. The formation of a numeracy committee, comprising teachers passionate about math and numeracy, marks a pivotal step for the Division. This team is dedicated to exploring strategies that not only engage students and spark their curiosity in math but also promote a comprehensive understanding of numerical concepts and the application of math strategies in real-life scenarios.

The committee is collaborating closely with teachers and other staff to enrich educational practices, aiming to enhance students' mathematical fluency and deepen their numeracy understanding.

Professional development in numeracy has been a highlight this year, with two full days dedicated to numeracy programming in both Calgary and Lethbridge. The Division looks forward to continued collaboration and professional growth in the upcoming school year.

