

At our August Board meeting, the Board of Trustees held their Organizational Meeting. Trustee Lorelei Bexte will remain as Chair, Trustee Tony Montina was acclaimed Vice Chair and Trustee Debbie Laturnus will keep the role of Alternate Vice-Chair.

August 31st, our division held their Opening Day for the 2023-2024 school year. Our Division always looks forward to kicking off an amazing year on this special day for our staff.

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 for 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. 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.

At our regular board meeting this month, the superintendent appointed Tom Hamer, Associate Superintendent of Learning Services, to 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.

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.