

RI BAKER SCHOOL COUNCIL AGENDA
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

1. Call to Order 6:32pm

a. Welcome/Introductions

2. Approval of agenda approved- Derek made motion, Danni seconded motion

3. Approval of November school council minutes- Megan seconded the motion

4. Reports

a. Trustee

Sharon Rutledge- The Palliser School Division is committed to fostering strong relationships with all the members in the Division. The Board has established an Engagement Committee. The Committee will host three public engagement evenings inviting stakeholders to explore their vision for the schools and the Division. Check the Palliser website for further announcements. The Board reviewed the Annual Education Results Report. The Division continues to surpass provincial averages with positive feedback from both parents and staff. However, one area of concern is student willingness toward learning and engagement in school. School staff and the Division are working closely to identify strategies to address this concern. Palliser School Division's Early Learning Program provides valuable learning

experiences for 3 and 4-year-olds through play based learning, literacy and numeracy development and social-emotional learning. These programs are located at 10 schools throughout the southern area of the Division. The Board understands the importance of high quality early learning, and is committed to addressing the challenges of rising student needs with support provided by speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and family oriented programs. To inquire about an early learning program at your local school, please contact the school directly. The Palliser School Division's International Student Program continues to thrive, welcoming students from diverse global backgrounds and allowing domestic students to experience new cultures within their classrooms with exciting opportunities for reciprocal exchanges. (In spring 2024, a group of students from Coaldale participated in an exchange to Spain.) The program adjusts student enrollment to ensure quality placements and capacity concerns with short term and long term programming options. In 2025, local students will participate in reciprocal exchange programs in Italy, Spain and Sweden. More information on the International Student Program can be found on the Palliser website. The Board reviews and revises its' Policies on a rotational basis. The Division's Policies can be viewed on the Palliser website.

Debbie Laturnus- The Palliser School Division made significant progress in occupational health and safety (OHS) during 2024, addressing challenges and implementing proactive measures. Four incidents were reported to Alberta OHS as potentially serious, with all required procedures followed and no additional measures recommended. Facility inspections, including air quality assessments at Spring Ridge Colony and playground safety checks across several schools, ensured compliance and addressed minor issues.

Division OHS is working with the counselling team to launch a pilot behavioural reporting system in Calgary and Vulcan schools. This

initiative empowers staff and students to report concerning and positive behaviours. Division and school staff will use a familiar software platform to report on behaviour, allowing for a quick response. Staff look forward to celebrating positive behaviour reported through the system as well.

Transportation Services Update: The Palliser School Division operates a fleet of 85 buses, transporting 2,400 students daily across 63 routes and travelling over 1.9 million kilometres annually. In 2024, the fleet maintained compliance with all provincial safety requirements, including biannual inspections, GPS tracking, and enhanced monitoring systems. The "Think of Us on the Bus" safety campaign continues to raise awareness, supported by law enforcement and regional outreach. Additionally, five new camera systems were added to buses, reducing traffic violations around school buses and providing drivers with 360-degree visibility around the bus. Despite rising fuel costs and a shortage of spare drivers, the transportation department is closing the 2023-2024 year with a small surplus due to subsidies and cost-saving measures. The department is also addressing ongoing operational improvements, including field trip support and stakeholder collaboration to resolve concerns. Looking ahead, the division will continue to modernize its fleet and adapt to regulatory changes affecting eligibility criteria and funding for the 2026-2027 school year.

2024-2025 Budget Update

The Palliser School Division, like many others across the province, is facing a budget deficit for the 2024/2025 school year due to funding challenges. A \$1.5 million funding loss from a grant clawback due to enrollment overestimations is responsible for much of the deficit. While initial projections indicated a \$4.4 million shortfall, cost-saving measures such as unfilled positions, new hires at entry-level salaries, and operational efficiencies have reduced the deficit to \$2.6 million. Despite rising expenses for new facilities, buses, and staffing, Palliser remains committed to protecting classroom resources and maintaining

high-quality education. The Board continues to advocate for adequate funding, emphasizing the unique needs of rural schools and shifting enrollment. Through careful planning and ongoing dialogue with the provincial government, the division focuses on finding long-term solutions to ensure student stability and growth.

2025-2026 School Calendars

The Board approved draft Division calendars for the 2025/2026 school year for our South, North and Islamic schools. Now that the Board has approved the Division calendars, school administrators will consult with their staff and community to determine a local calendar. This may include additional school-based professional development days, shown in purple on the calendar, to continue to work on local priorities and goals, or a request may be made for additional non-student, non-staff days, also referred to as non-operational days. The calendars will be available soon on our Division website:

<https://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/schools/school-calendar-information>

b. Chair persons - no report

c. **Principal - School Data** - Jason presented data from the Assurance framework survey. Only 7 parents filled out this survey so the data may not be reliable. This year RIB surveyed the kids in the school using the OUr School survey...The highlights and areas of concern were noted.

Leading A Culture of thinking Summit - Jason shared professional development plans for 7 staff to attend and further move our school along in the PBL and IBL. Staff will return and spend time workshopping the new learnings.

SLC - RIB will be formally starting their Student Leadership Committee. This will be ran by Jason and Ms. Giesbrecht.

Leadership Workshop - This will be organized and hosted by RIB. All schools in the south will be invited to bring their students.

Basketball - The season is underway and we will be attending two tournaments - Emmanuel Christian and CES.

Guest Speaker - Currently Looking for a guest speaker to meet with students school wide around inclusion and anti-racism. Parents will be invited to attend as well.

5. Business arising

6. New business

7. Bouquets- Jason gives one to Kurtz and Goertzen for arranging a ski trip. Brett for Mr.Ross and Mrs.Wahl for keeping the building so nice and clean over the break and another to Dave Shaw, the transportation coordinator, for working towards solutions.

8. Next Meeting _____ March 11

2025_____

9. Adjournment- 7:32 pm