

# RI BAKER SCHOOL COUNCIL AGENDA

## TUESDAY, May 13th, 2025

1. Call to Order 6:32pm
  - a. Welcome/Introductions
2. Approval of agenda approved-
3. Approval of April school council minutes-
4. Reports
  - a. Trustee

### **Sharon Rutlidge-**

Southern Alberta Collegiate Institute, through partnerships with Lethbridge Polytechnic and other regional organizations, offers exciting career programs for students in grades 7-12. Students explore careers in Trades, Agriculture and Health Care through hands-on learning and real-world experiences. For younger students (grades 7-9), the E3 program builds confidence and practical skills through projects such as patching bike tires, plant splicing, first aid, and constructing small electrical items.

Older students (grades 9-12) can participate in dual credit programs that include college-level courses, work experience,

certifications, and other career-focused activities.

The Palliser Numeracy Professional Learning Community is a dedicated group of teachers and administrators who support continued growth of math teaching and learning. The Division hosted a successful Numeracy Symposium and partnered with neighboring divisions offering professional learning opportunities such as Building Thinking Classroom, additional whiteboard spaces, digital platforms, and fluency kits. Teachers are focusing on aligning instruction, supporting students who require additional help particularly in Grades K-3 where foundational skills are critical for long term success.

Palliser continues to prioritize strong Literacy Foundations, especially in the early years. This year, more than 1,000 students from K-Gr.3 received support in reading and language development. Professional learning opportunities were held in November in Calgary and Lethbridge. The sessions enabled teachers to connect and share strategies in early reading instruction, vocabulary development and comprehension. While progress has been made in creating more consistent assessment practices, changes to provincial literacy assessments have introduced some challenges.

The Palliser School Facilities Team has experienced significant changes this year. The unexpected passing of long-time Facilities Supervisor Rod Swatzenberger was deeply felt by all who knew him. Rod oversaw the planning, construction and completion of Coaldale Prairie Winds Secondary, a facility that stands as a testament to his dedication and passion for the students of Palliser. The team is now led by Rick Aos, Facilities Manager, and supported by Stephen O'Connor, Maintenance Supervisor who oversees Palliser's caretaking staff.

## **Debbie Laturnus-**

### **Inclusive Education Update**

The Board reviewed progress on the division's multi-year strategy to strengthen inclusive education. This year's focus has been on fully implementing a new Individual Program Plan (IPP) system and providing professional learning that helps staff design lessons for all learners. While pressures like funding challenges and system coordination remain, the overall cultural shift toward inclusion is showing strong results, with staff more equipped to meet a wide range of student needs and families more engaged in the planning process.

### **Indigenous Education Update**

The Board received an important update on Indigenous education, focused on how schools are supporting the success of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) students. Data shared in the presentation showed that Indigenous students who have been enrolled in the division longer tend to achieve higher results on provincial tests and literacy assessments, suggesting that consistent support over time makes a meaningful difference. While progress is being made, the division is continuing to strengthen both school and division-level strategies to boost outcomes.

### **CTS Trailer Program Update**

The Board received an update on the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) trailers currently rotating among Coalhurst High School, Brant Christian School, and Noble Central School.

These mobile shops are a vital way for students to gain hands-on skills in areas like woodworking and welding, especially in schools without permanent shop spaces. The trailers are well-used and highly valued by students, staff, and the wider school communities. While there are some maintenance and staffing challenges, short and long-term recommendations are being developed.

### Fiscal Update

The Division's financial update shows a positive shift, with the projected deficit for 2024–2025 reduced from \$1.36 million to approximately \$1.09 million, thanks to additional targeted funding received during the year. These funds, supporting areas like dual credit programming, enrollment growth, and fuel cost contingencies, have helped offset some key expenses. Facilities staff are also completing site audits to prioritize maintenance and safety needs, especially regarding roofs.

### Review of the Education Plan

Palliser's current Three-Year Education Plan, which launched in the 2023–2024 school year, was reviewed by the Board as it enters its second year. While no major revisions are planned at this time, some key updates were noted. Notably, the Division will discontinue the use of 'Our School' surveys, as they were found to overlap significantly with Alberta Education's existing surveys. Instead, schools will begin developing local surveys tailored to gather more meaningful and actionable feedback. The Mission, Vision and Values statements will also potentially change after the Board completes their strategic planning process.

Important note: The time of the June 17th Board meeting has been changed to begin at 11:30

AM. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for May 27th, 2025

b. Chair persons - no report

c. **Principal -**

**Staffing -**

Our staffing has been finalized for next year. We will be moving to 3 classes in all grades for next year. We have also seen a decrease in our severe student population which will result in less EA's. We will be spending the coming weeks working through some of these changes. We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Gagne and welcoming Mrs. Moulding from JEES. Two part time positions are currently posted in grade 4 and 5 for next year.

**CASA Classroom** - We have finalized the details regarding the CASA Classroom being housed at RIB for the next three years. Melissa Easthope has been hired as the CASA teacher and is excited to join our team.

**Track & Field** - Our grade sixes competed with the grade 7 & 8 students from PW last week and we had a blast. We will be heading to the LSAA track meet on the 27th of May.

**SLC Earth Day** - Our student leadership committee organized a community clean up blitz and removed over 200 lbs of garbage for Main Street and local parks.

**New Student Transitions -**

May 5-9 - Students came over in small groups

May 20 - All grade 3's come to Baker (Q&A, tour, recess)

May 22, 6:00 pm - New student Orientation Night (Passports, assembly).

May & June - Multiple Visits to JEES

\*Our grade 6's will be heading to PW on June 9th for a transition day as they move to the Jr high setting.

5. Business arising-none

6. New business- none

7. Bouquets-

Suzi gave one to organizers of the track meet at Baker. Jason gave one to Glenda and Jodi for their assistance in the office. Brett gave one to Chad for organizing the e sports club.

8. Next Meeting \_\_\_\_\_September 9th 2025\_\_

9. Adjournment- 7:00 pm