

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON OCTOBER 13TH, 2011, COMMENCING AT 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT

DOUG BOWIE
SHELLEY GRUNDBERG
REBECCA HEIBERG
NOREEN METZ
PETER MILLER
KENDALL SEVERSON

ABSENT

CHERYL SMITH
JIM FIELDING
DR LARRY PAYNE, Superintendent of Schools
RICK JARRETT, Assistant Superintendent - Instruction
IMOGENE WALSH, Treasurer

ALSO PRESENT

RAY BOSH, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services
BILL SCHULTE, Assistant Superintendent – Business
DIANE HUTCHINSON, Communications Coordinator
SHIRLEY FAIRALL, Recording Secretary

D. BOWIE IN THE CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Bowie called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#133\11 P MILLER – That the agenda be approved with the addition of the following:

New Business:

7.4 Capital Plan Committee – Modular Classrooms

Committee Updates:

9.8 Policy Review Committee

CARRIED

RESCIND MOTION #132\11 – VIRTUAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Trustees reviewed the minutes of the September 29th, 2011 regular meeting of the Board and determined that motion #132\11 – Virtual School Committee does not reflect the intention of the Board.

#134\11 R HEIBERG - That the Board rescinds motion #132\11, which states:

“That the Board continue to commit to last year’s decision to keep Lougheed, Rosalind, and Strome Schools open and, together with the Superintendent, the Board is committed to ongoing support and evaluation of this project.

CARRIED

VIRTUAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

This motion will replace Motion #132\11 – Virtual School Committee:

#135\11 R HEIBERG – That the Board, in response to a request for clarification from the Lougheed, Rosalind and Strome communities, arising from the virtual learning pilot proposal, will consider individual school and district viability on a year by year basis throughout BRSD, as per usual practice. Therefore, the Board will not make any commitment beyond June 30th, 2012.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

#136\11 N METZ – That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees held on September 8th and September 29th, 2011 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Stephen Ioanidis, Principal, Cornerstone Christian Academy, joined the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUEST – CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Vice Chair Bowie welcomed Mr Ioanidis and invited his presentation. Mr Ioanidis provided details of the proposed trip of the Cornerstone Christian Academy tentatively scheduled for the spring break of 2012. The students will be participating in a humanitarian endeavour by assisting at the God’s Littlest Angels Orphanage in Haiti. Mr Ioanidis detailed the precautions taken to ensure the safety of the students on this trip.

Mr Ioanidis left the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Maureen Parker, Director of Curriculum, joined the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

TELL THEM FROM ME SURVEY

Vice Chair Bowie welcomed Ms Parker and invited her presentation. Ms Parker reported that thirteen schools in the Battle River School Division are participating in a three year pilot project, the “Tell Them From Me Survey”. This survey is an evaluation system that provides a solution for measuring, assessing and reporting student data on factors that affect academic achievement and other outcomes. Results are gathered through surveys administered to students twice a year by school coordinators, and measure the engagement of students in three areas: social engagement, institutional engagement and intellectual engagement.

Ms Parker left the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:12 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

#137\11 K SEVERSON - That the Capital Plan Committee recommends to the Board of Trustees the adoption of the following priorities for the Alberta Education Modular Classroom Program:

1. Sifton School (two modulars)
2. CW Sears School
3. Jack Stuart School

CARRIED

READING UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Ray Bosh, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services, and Diane Hutchinson, Communications Coordinator, reported on the Reading University held in two locations, Camrose and Tofield, during July 2011. This year was the largest attendance to date with a total of 62 students enrolled in the program; 50 attending in Camrose and 12 attending in Tofield.

Vice Chair Bowie thanked Mr Bosh and Ms Hutchinson for their continued success in coordinating and delivering this program for students on behalf of Battle River School Division.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Trustee Miller, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, reported on the committee meeting held on October 5th, 2011. The Community Engagement meetings are tentatively scheduled on November 24th and 25th, 2011 in addition to three evening meetings tentatively scheduled in Ryley, Killam, and the Camrose Composite High School.

ATA NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

Trustees discussed the membership and approach to be taken with possible upcoming negotiations with ATA. Trustee Miller, Chair of the ATA Negotiating Committee, will be the spokesperson for this committee.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Trustee Severson, Chair of the Communications Committee, brought to the Trustees' attention the recently distributed report to citizens as an out-sert through the Camrose Booster. The Committee has been discussing the possibility of producing the report for electronic distribution in future years. The Communications Committee currently prepares highlights of each Board meeting which are posted on the BRSD website.

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Trustee Severson, Chair of the Capital Planning Committee, provided an update on the committee's proposed tours to review the following facilities: Lougheed, Central High Sedgewick Public, Allan Johnstone, Forestburg, Holden, Tofield, and CW Sears Schools.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE PROJECT

Trustee Heiberg, representative on City of Camrose Environmental Education Centre Committee, provided a report on the 2011 Education and Awareness Program activities held by the Camrose Wildlife and Stewardship Society, and the recent decision for this society to work with the City of Camrose to proceed with a Greenspace Master Plan.

TALK TO THE TRUSTEES

Trustees discussed feedback received through the ‘Talk To The Trustees’ portion of the BRSD website. The question “How can we create and promote inclusive school environments for all BRSD students?” has recently been posted.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION BANQUET REFLECTIONS

Trustees shared their views on the Employee Recognition Banquet held on Saturday, September 24th, 2011 at the Camrose Regional Exhibition.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:48 a.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

ACHIEVING YES IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Trustees reflected on their recent attendance at the “Achieving Yes In Collective Bargaining” workshop held in Edmonton on September 27th and 28th, 2011.

ALBERTA EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION SESSIONS

Trustee Heiberg reported her attendance together with Ray Bosh, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services, at the Alberta Education Transformation Session held in Red Deer on September 27th, 2011. The joint meetings with Alberta Education, ASBA and ATA are designed to follow-up on Alberta Education’s Inspiring Education Initiative and to foster collaboration between all education partners.

PRINCIPAL \ SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIR SESSION

Vice Chair Bowie and Trustees Grundberg, Heiberg, Metz, and Miller discussed their participation at the Principal \ School Council Chair workshop held at the Norsemen Inn in Camrose on September 21st, 2011. The positive feedback received from participants has encouraged the Community Engagement Committee to organize another similar workshop focusing on literacy and the role of Trustees.

ATA LIAISON MEETING

An ATA Liaison Meeting with Battle River School Division Board of Trustees and Battle River School Division ATA Representatives is scheduled for Monday, October 24th, 2011.

BOARD ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES DEBRIEF

Trustees discussed their participation in the Board Roles and Responsibility Sessions which included presentations by Heather Welwood, Past President, and Jim Gibbons, Senior Education Advisor, both of ASBA, together with Imogene Walsh, BRSD Treasurer, in the Division Office Board Room on Thursday, September 29th, 2011.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND BOARD EVALUATION SESSION

Trustees reflected on the results and benefit of the Board Self Evaluation reviewed with Shirley Stiles, Education Consultant, and the value of the information session on Financial Accountability presented by Imogene Walsh, Treasurer on Thursday, September 29th, 2011.

STAFF APPRECIATION GIFT BAGS

Trustees unanimously agreed to once again deliver Christmas gift bags to schools.

POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Trustee Heiberg advised the Board that the Policy Review Committee will be providing a policy for review prior to the second Board meeting each month.

HEALTHY SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

Trustees Grundberg and Miller reported on their attendance at the Healthy Active Schools Symposium (HASS) event on October 12th, 2011 in Kinsella, Alberta.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Assistant Superintendent Competition

On behalf of Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, Ray Bosh, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services provided an update on the Assistant Superintendent – Business competition. Interviews will be held on Monday, October 17th, 2011.

Premier's Award of Excellence – One to One Project

Mr Bosh advised Trustees that Battle River School Division is one of 20 Alberta School Divisions to receive a Bronze category Premiers Award for our initiative of the One to One Project which took place from 2007 to 2010. Grade eleven and twelve students from Bawlf, Daysland and Forestburg Schools participated in the pilot project which required the use of laptops for the regular class work.

Parent Night on Virtual Schools

Mr Bosh reported that approximately 15 parents attended the Virtual Schools Meeting held in Daysland on Tuesday, October 11th, 2011. Rosalind Parent Council is ready to begin the process to implement the virtual schools concept. Strome and Loughheed representatives are planning to discuss the information received at this meeting with their Parent Council Committees and report their decision to Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools.

Student Enrollment Count

Battle River School Division continues to face declining enrollment as projected. The student enrollment count as at September 30th, 2011 is 6,395 compared to March 31st, 2011 when the student enrollment count was 6,584.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUEST – CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

#138\11 S GRUNDBERG – That the Board approves, in principle and subject to Administrative Procedure 261 ‘Travel Study’, the international travel trip to Haiti by the Cornerstone Christian Academy students during spring break 2012 (March 30th to April 9th, 2012).

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:13 p.m.

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