

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2003, COMMENCING AT 9:31 A.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM AT THE HARDISTY TOWN OFFICE

PRESENT

BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG (left the meeting at 12:13 p.m.)
GWENDA POYSER
BILL SEARS
WAYNE THRONDSO
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

MICHELE MULDER

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
STEPHEN SMITH, Chief Deputy Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
TIM CHAMBERLIN, Communications Officer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

G. POYSER IN THE CHAIR

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

#245/03 P. ZENIUK – That the following items be added to the agenda:

Timed Items

10:00 a.m. – Transportation Appeal, Alvin and Betty Dyck
10:30 a.m. – Transportation Appeal, Niki Bownes

New Business

14. Review of Policy HGDJ – Provincial/Zone Funding
15. By-election, City of Camrose
16. ASBA Financial Options Task Force
17. Premier's Award of Excellence, ASBA

Information

4. Centra Cam Emergency Clothing and Furniture Depot
5. Letters from Max Lindstrand and Neil Johnston, CCHS
6. Class Sizes, Battle River Regional Division #31

CARRIED

PROCESS FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Superintendent of Schools Phillips reviewed a document with respect to the proposed timelines for the public consultation process that was prepared following his meetings with the Executive Committee and the Chief Deputy Superintendent.

The Trustees agreed, by consensus, to accept the document and proposed the addition of adding meetings with the Camrose, Tofield and Viking communities. Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith will serve as the liaison for these three community meetings.

TRANSPORTATION APPEAL – BETTY DYCK

At 9:53 a.m., Chairman Poyser welcomed Ms Betty Dyck to the meeting and invited her presentation. Ms Dyck requested transportation for her children from their residence in the Daysland School attendance area to the Rosalind School. As this is a recent move, the children have been attending Rosalind School. One of the children is a special needs child with a program set up at the Rosalind School.

Ms Dyck left the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

- #246/03 B. SEARS – That the Board adjusts the Rosalind School bus route such that the children of Alvin and Betty Dyck are picked up at a location on the boundary line (Range Road 170).

CARRIED

THREE-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES

Dr. Phillips reviewed the three-year high school completion rates of students in Battle River Regional Division #31 and the Province. The most recent three-year high school completion rates in Battle River Regional Division #31 is 67% and ranks 26th out of 58 boards.

Dr. Phillips noted that the above-noted figure has been discussed with school administrators and that he has asked each administrator to do an analysis on the list of students from his/her school from the most recent three-year study. Administrators have been asked to consider what can be done in their schools to address this issue and to prepare a report on what each can do differently to change this trend.

TRANSPORTATION APPEAL – NIKI BOWNES

At 10:35 a.m., Chairman Poyser welcomed Niki Bownes and Muriel Fankhanel to the meeting, performed introductions and invited Ms Bownes' presentation. Ms Bownes requested busing for her children to attend Alliance School from their residence in the Central High-Sedgewick Public School attendance area. Ms Bownes noted that their residence is approximately ½ mile from the boundary line, but is approximately 5 miles from the current bus route.

Ms Bownes and Ms Fankhanel left the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:53 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

REVIEW OF POLICY HGDJ 'PROVINCIAL/ZONE FUNDING'

#247/03 W. THRONDSOON – That the Board establishes an ad hoc committee, consisting of two trustees, the Superintendent of Schools or designate, the finance manager, two school principals, and two members of the athletic association to review Policy HGDJ 'Provincial/Zone Funding', and further that this Committee brings a recommendation to the Board.

CARRIED

Ms Poyser called for nominations or volunteers to sit on the above-noted ad hoc committee.

Brenda Herder volunteered.
Gerry Oberg volunteered.

Trustees Herder and Oberg were declared elected to serve on the Provincial/Zone Funding Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Don Gillies, Assistant Superintendent, will chair this Committee.

BY-ELECTION, CITY OF CAMROSE

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte informed Trustees that two nominations for the Board of Trustees by-election in the City of Camrose were received. These are Cheryl Smith and Jorge de Paz. Election notices will be submitted to the local newspapers. Camrose Composite High School, Jack Stuart School and Sparling School will serve as polling stations. The polling booths will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on October 20, 2003.

ALBERTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION (ASBA) FINANCIAL OPTIONS TASK FORCE

ASBA is facing growing operating costs and rising members expectations, therefore this organization is looking for revenue sources beyond the membership fees of the school boards. Trustees were encouraged to fill in the questionnaire and submit it to ASBA by September 26, 2003,

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST – NIKI BOWNES (continued)

- #248/03 B. HERDER – That the Board adheres to policy and denies the request from Niki Bownes for busing service for her children to attend Alliance School from their residence in the Sedgewick attendance area.
- CARRIED

PREMIER’S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE, ASBA

A nomination from Battle River Regional Division #31 has been prepared for the Premier’s Award of Excellence sponsored by the ASBA.

- #249/03 B. HERDER – That the Board supports the nomination of the Drug Response Task Force for the Premier’s Award of Excellence, and further that this nomination be submitted to the Alberta School Boards Association.
- CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (11:35 a.m.)

- #250/03 P. ZENIUK – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and further that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Chief Deputy Superintendent Smith, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, Communications Officer Chamberlin, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.
- CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 12:13 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 12:13 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:13 p.m. and reconvened at 1:59 p.m. to permit the Trustees to attend the special ceremonies at Allan Johnstone School with respect to the presentation of the Young Authors’ Award to the students who wrote the illustrated book ‘Standing Guard, Through the Eyes of the Sentinels’. This book is published by Scholastic Books and will be available throughout Canada at their book fairs.

Trustee Oberg left the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

CLASS SIZES

Dr. Phillips provided information to the Trustees with respect to class sizes in Battle River Regional Division #31 that have 30 or more students in a class at the junior and senior high school levels.

Dr. Phillips noted that in the core subjects in grades 1-6 there are no classes that have more than 30 students. Some complementary classes do.

INTERNATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Dr. Phillips informed the Trustees that on September 15, 2003, he, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Director of Special Education Cowie, and Trustee Zeniuk met with Ms Mary Davis and Ms Susan Hinton from the San Marcos Civic Foundation in Texas, who provided information with respect to programs for students with dyslexia. A subsequent conversation with Trustee Zeniuk and Ms Davis led to an invitation to apply for a grant that would pay for the attendance of three people from Battle River Regional Division #31 at a conference in November 2003 in San Diego, at no cost to the Board. The funding application was sent in. Dr. Phillips suggested that Director of Special Education, Joyce Cowie; Special Education Consultant, Carol Klontz; and Trustee Zeniuk apply to attend this conference. A report is to be given to the funding group following the conference and will be a useful tool in Battle River Regional Division #31.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete, and there being no dissent, Chairman Poyser declared the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

GWENDA POYSER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER