

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON JUNE 28, 2001, COMMENCING
AT 9:33 A.M.**

PRESENT

LORNE ENRIGHT
MICHELE MULDER
GERRY OBERG
GWENDA POYSER
JACQUIE SCHAFFTER (left the meeting at 12:04 p.m.)
BILL SEARS
WAYNE THRONDSO
ROXANE WOLOSHYN

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

PAUL DOLYNNY, Superintendent of Schools
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

M. MULDER IN THE CHAIR

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

#115/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the Board approves the additions to the agenda
as noted on the distributed copies of the add-on sheet.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Capital Plan

Fence at Charlie Killam School

Superintendent of Schools Dolynny recommended that the fence that borders the Charlie Killam School and runs east and west along 48th Avenue (Highway 13) be moved 20 feet north. This would increase the safety for students walking to Sifton School along that sidewalk as it would permit them to walk farther away from the traffic flow. Moving the fence would necessitate moving the playground equipment from the Charlie Killam School to Sifton School.

The Director of Transportation, Brenda Johnson, joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m. for the discussion of the embarking and disembarking of students from buses at the Charlie Killam and Sifton Schools.

Bus Embarking and Disembarking – Charlie Killam and Sifton Schools

Ms. Johnson presented a proposal for the embarking and disembarking of students on school buses for the Charlie Killam and Sifton Schools.

#116/01 R. WOLOSHYN – That the Board approves in principle, for student safety and pending approval from the School Council at the Charlie Killam School, the moving, by twenty feet to the north, of the fence on the south side of the school adjacent to 48th Avenue (Highway 13), thereby necessitating the movement of the playground from the Charlie Killam School to Sifton School; and further that the Board approves the proposal presented by the Director of Transportation for the embarking and disembarking of students from buses at the Charlie Killam School and the Sifton School.

CARRIED

REQUEST FROM ROSALIND SCHOOL COUNCIL

Trustees reviewed a letter received from Brenda Herder, Rosalind School Council Chair, which contained the following requests: 1) “a solution which will ultimately clarify the fact that the Capital Plan proposal for the Rosalind School was not accepted” and 2) “a reassurance for the public who has and still feel threatened by the suggested consequences of the direction this Board projected for the Rosalind School in as few as 5 years.”

Trustees noted that declining enrolments, extra space in Battle River Regional Division #31 schools and aging buildings are a reality and need to be dealt with. As this is the reality, a response to the above-noted requests is not possible until a new Capital Plan is prepared. The preparation of a Capital Plan is in process and will be provided to school council prior to submission.

Chairman Mulder noted that several Board members and Divisional Office administrators will be meeting with the Honorable Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure, on July 24, 2001.

COURSE REQUEST – CAMROSE COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

#117/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the Board approves and endorses for Camrose Composite High School the locally approved courses of Dance 15, 25 and 35 and Ballet 15, 25, and 35 for the 2001-02 school year; and further that similar courses be approved for any high school in Battle River Regional Division #31 requesting such.

CARRIED

PACE OUTREACH SCHOOL UPDATE

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte reported that the tender for the building that will house the PACE Outreach School has been awarded to Hansen and Sons. It is possible that the final approval will be received shortly and construction will begin after advertising is done. A lease will be arranged.

TRANSPORTATION REQUEST – DAVE AND BRENDA ZIMMEL

#117/01 B. SEARS – That, notwithstanding policy IC ‘Attendance Areas/Transportation’ the Board allows the two children of Dave and Brenda Zimmel to access bus transportation to the Daysland School from their residence in the Heisler School attendance area.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed 10:48 and reconvened at 10:59 a.m.

DUANE NICHOLS, EAST CENTRAL ALBERTA CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOLS

At 10:59 a.m. Chairman Mulder welcomed Duane Nichols, Trustee for East Central Alberta Catholic Separate Schools, to the meeting and invited him to inform the Board with respect to the formation of a Catholic separate school division in the Heisler area. Mr. Nichols noted that his jurisdiction was approached by community members from Heisler seeking information with respect to forming a separate school district. Mr. Nichols informed Trustees that his Board supports most of Bill 16 (to come forward at the Fall sitting of the Legislature) as it provides for discussion with public school boards with respect to the formation of separate school divisions. Mr. Nichols noted that informal discussions have been held at Heisler, however his Board at this time has no legal right to address the issue until the Minister of Learning assigns a separate division in Heisler to his Board, if that should occur. Mr. Nichols further informed Trustees that his Board would be in the community to educate students and that it is not in a building mode.

Mr. Nichols noted that, with respect to the establishment of a Catholic system at Halkirk, the community of Castor needed a gymnasium. When Clearview School Division closed the program at the Halkirk School, community members saw an opportunity to obtain a facility with a gymnasium and the parents proceeded to establish a Catholic system in the area. They then assumed the Halkirk School facility, twelve miles from Castor.

Mr. Nichols informed Trustees that his Board is dedicated to public education and will be working with Battle River Regional Division #31 if the proposed Catholic system is established at Heisler, however his Board did not seek this.

Mr. Nichols informed Trustees that he would not know where the students would be housed in the Heisler area because they have no enrolment numbers or legal right to plan at this point.

Superintendent of Schools Dolynny noted that Battle River Regional Division #31 has the Heisler School staffed for September with appropriate staff for the current enrolment numbers. He has, however, received some indication from the community that a Catholic school will be in place for September. Is this true?

Mr. Nichols responded that his Board does not want to proceed too quickly, however it is not impossible because there could be a Ministerial Order for this. Mr. Nichols noted that his Board hopes that planning will proceed in an orderly fashion. The East Central Alberta Catholic Separate School Division has not guaranteed the community at Heisler anything and cannot guarantee anything to this Board.

Mr. Nichols was questioned about the timeline for registering students if the Catholic School Division was formed in the Heisler community. Mr. Nichols responded that it is basically whoever appears on the first day of school as his Board has nothing concrete to work with. He noted that if his Board is given the mandate to provide Catholic education in the Heisler community, the community would be surveyed to determine the number of students desiring this service. His Board would then have to make a decision to provide an onsite school or a virtual school. He noted that his Board wants the community to make that decision and that East Central Catholic Separate School Division is truly site-based.

Mr. Nichols was questioned if his Board would allow fundraising to provide teachers in the classroom. Mr. Nichols replied that that has never been needed and isn't sure what the response would be if such was requested.

In response to an observation by Trustee Enright, Mr. Nichols confirmed that if no facilities were available in Heisler, parents would have to choose an alternate method of education.

Trustee Woloshyn enquired if the Catholic school division would be open to sharing schools with non-Catholic boards. Mr. Nichols replied that his Board would be open to discussing the sharing of facilities, but they have no policy on this. He further noted that he isn't sure if the community would be open to this.

Trustee Enright enquired that if the Catholic school division is approved for the Heisler area and a building is available, how would the busing work. Mr. Nichols responded that if the system were established and the Minister of Learning has assigned the division to East Central Catholic Separate School Division, the students are then entitled to busing. Typically his Board has contracted busing of students to the host Board. His Board would not be entertaining the provision of an entire new busing system.

Chairman Mulder requested of Mr. Nichols that when, or if, the Minister approves the establishment of a Catholic school system in the Heisler area and designates the system to East Central Catholic Separate School Division, that Battle River Regional Division #31 be notified immediately as there is a need to know the number of students attending the Heisler

School to finalize staffing and resources. Mr. Nichols indicated that would be done.

Ms. Mulder thanked Mr. Nichols for coming and invited further cooperation with his Board.

Mr. Nichols left the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

PATRICIA ZENIUK, ROUND HILL SCHOOL COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

A delegation of approximately eight persons from the Round Hill School joined the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Ms. Patricia Zeniuk served as spokesperson for the delegation.

Ms. Zeniuk presented the request of the Round Hill School Council to have the attendance area of the Round Hill School enlarged noting that it is the only school within Battle River Regional Division #31 that has an attendance area boundary within two miles of where the school is located. Ms. Zeniuk noted that it is not the intent of the School Council to ask that the boundaries be opened to allow students to flow freely between one school and another, rather that the Board consider redrawing the Round Hill School attendance area. Ms. Zeniuk indicated that students in that area who would not wish to then attend Round Hill School could perhaps be “grand fathered” to their current school. Ms. Zeniuk also noted that the Tofield School could be added as the fourth option for students in this area when they attend high school. Currently students residing in the Round Hill School attendance area attend Bawlf School, Hay Lakes School, and Camrose Composite High School for high school.

Chairman Mulder noted that the Board received a letter from the Holden School Council indicating concern that this proposal is a threat to their low enrolment programs. Trustee Sears indicated that the Tofield School Council and the C. W. Sears School Council expressed concern about redrawing the attendance area boundary.

Ms. Mulder indicated that the Board hears the concerns about the old County line being used as the attendance area for the Round Hill School, however she noted that the Board wishes to be cautious in changing that line to ensure that people that would be impacted by the movement of that line would be informed and have opportunity for input.

Trustee Sears noted that perhaps the Board should be looking at the possibility of extending the Tofield School attendance area into the north Kingman and north Miquelon area as requests have been received for some students in that area to go to Tofield School. Ms. Zeniuk responded that she would want to consider this and consult with the delegation.

Ms. Mulder noted that the issue of what is fair is forefront – what is fair to one group and to others. People are asking to attend school in other areas – is it fair to say they can come in to the area, but others cannot leave to attend a school of their choice. Transportation issues are huge and complex and many schools in Battle River Regional Division #31 are facing the same issues as Round Hill School.

Ms. Mulder further noted that the Board is in the process of preparing a new Capital Plan which will be sent to the School Councils before submission to Alberta Learning. Ms. Mulder noted that the Capital Plan will be prepared and sent to School Councils before October, 2001.

Ms. Zeniuk queried the results of the phone survey the Director of Transportation undertook with respect to changing the attendance area boundary of the Round Hill School. Ms. Zeniuk presented a letter to the Board from a parent who expressed concern about the survey questions. Ms. Zeniuk also presented several other letters of support for their School Council request.

Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, noted that the survey is complete and that she contacted eighty-nine persons.

Ms. Zeniuk noted that her contacts were with parents who have children attending Round Hill School and that the persons present with her today support the proposal.

Ms. Zeniuk questioned if it is possible for the people from this area to meet with the Board. Ms. Mulder responded that if a public meeting is held, the Board would want to have representations from each of the four Schools and their School Councils involved in the boundary change as well.

The delegation left the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (11:53 a.m.)

#119/01 J. SCHAFFTER – That the regular meeting recess to allow the Trustees to meet in-camera and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Dolynny, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

Director of Transportation Johnson left the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Trustee Schaffter left the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 12:20 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

#120/01 R. WOLOSHYN –That the Board of Trustees ratifies the payment of accounts for the month of May, 2001.

CARRIED

LEASE OF FERINTOSH LOT

#121/01 L. ENRIGHT – That the Board of Trustees enters into a lease with the Village of Ferintosh as outlined by the Secretary-Treasurer.

CARRIED

MEETING DATE – CAPITAL PLAN

Trustees will meet on August 30, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss and prepare the Capital Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no dissent, at 12:36 p.m. Chairman Mulder adjourned the meeting.

MICHELE MULDER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

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