

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON JANUARY 10TH, 2013, COMMENCING AT 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT

DOUG BOWIE
JIM FIELDING
REBECCA HEIBERG
SHELLEY GRUNDBERG
NOREEN METZ
PETER MILLER
KENDALL SEVERSON
CHERYL SMITH

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

DR LARRY PAYNE, Superintendent of Schools
RAY BOSH, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services
RICK JARRETT, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction
IMOGENE WALSH, Assistant Superintendent – Business
DIANE HUTCHINSON, Communications Coordinator
SHIRLEY FAIRALL, Recording Secretary

D BOWIE IN THE CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

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

Cheryl Kropinske, Director of Finance, joined the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#01\13 K SEVERSON– That the Board approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#02\13 J FIELDING - That the Board adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of December 13th, 2012 as amended.

CARRIED

18TH NATIONAL CONGRESS ON RURAL EDUCATION

Trustees Grundberg and Metz plan to attend the 18th National Congress on Rural Education Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, March 17th to 19th, 2013.

2ND ANNUAL RURAL EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Chair Bowie brought to Trustees’ attention the 2nd Annual Rural Education Symposium, sponsored by Alberta Education, College of Alberta School Superintendents, Association of School Business Officials of Alberta, Alberta Teachers’ Association, Alberta School Boards Association, and Alberta School Councils’ Association, scheduled for March 3rd to 5th, 2013. Registration will be available through the website in late January 2013.

THANK YOU

Trustees received a thank you letter from Todd Markowsky, Teacher, Camrose Composite High School, for the financial contribution towards the CCHS Challenge Day Program.

Public guest joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COMPENSATION

#03\13 C SMITH – That the Board of Trustees revises Policy 7 – Board Operations, to create a separate taxable travel allowance (retroactive to September 1st, 2012) for the Board Chair and Vice Chair as follows:

11.2 Trustees will receive a taxable allowance to cover travel to and from regularly scheduled meetings. *Executive Committee will receive a taxable allowance to cover travel to and from regularly scheduled meetings.*

Chair Bowie requested a recorded vote. Chair Bowie and Vice Chair Miller will not vote on this motion.

In favour of the motion

C Smith
R Heiberg

Opposed to the motion

S Grundberg
J Fielding
N Metz
K Severson

NOT CARRIED

LOUGHEED MENNONITE PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Ray Bosh, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services, presented the Lougheed Mennonite Parent Survey results which identifies current and potential future enrollment numbers as of December 20th, 2012. It was noted that of 29 potential Mennonite students who were interested, 15 are already listed in the September 30th, 2012 enrollment count.

CALENDAR SURVEY RESULTS

Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction presented the results of the school year calendar survey. 85.36% of the 1325 votes received were in favour of starting the school year after Labour Day.

#04\13 J FIELDING - That the Board of Trustees approve the 2013 – 2014 school year calendar as presented.

CARRIED

REPORT CARD SAMPLES

Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction, reviewed with Trustees a random and anonymous sampling of November report cards children received. This was presented in conjunction with an effective feedback rubric. The growth and improvement in quality of feedback within Battle River School Division over three years was noted.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:17 a.m. and reconvened at 10:32 a.m.

Brooklyn Mazure, Karli Grove, Morgan Brausen, and Caylee Mowbray, Central High Sedgewick Public High School students, and public guests joined the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION

Chair Bowie welcomed students, requested introductions, and invited their presentation.

These students feel the current categories of the student assessment Administrative Procedure are too broad for these students to understand where they are in their level of achievement. Also, the students felt that a percentage marking system is available too late in the year to allow them time for improvement in marks. They are concerned that the new assessment system promotes an elimination of competition, makes all students equal when they are really not, and provides limited consequences for lateness or poor work.

The students thanked Trustees for allowing them to present at the Board Meeting. Chair Bowie, on behalf of the Board, thanked the students for their presentation.

Ms Mazure, Ms Grove, Ms Brausen, Ms Mowbray, and public guests left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction, provided research information to Trustees on formative and summative assessment. Mr Jarrett identified the importance of descriptive feedback in showing students where they are in their learning.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, presented to Trustees for their information, the following Administrative Procedures which will be posted to the BRSD Website:

- #145 – Voice Over Internet Protocol Phone Systems
- #150 – Lockdowns, and
- #570 – Charitable Donation Receipts.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (1:01 p.m.)

#05\13 J FIELDING - That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Payne, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services Bosh, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent - Business Walsh, Communications Coordinator Hutchinson, and Recording Secretary Fairall be excluded.

CARRIED

OUT OF IN-CAMERA SESSION (1:14 p.m.)

The In-Camera session concluded and the regular meeting reconvened.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Trustee Smith, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, provided an update on the committee's preparation for the upcoming forums. The focus of the committee will be based on Alberta Education's Inspiring Education Vision outlined by the Three E's: Engaged Thinker, Ethical Citizen, and Entrepreneurial Spirit. This year's focus will be on Entrepreneurial Spirit since the Engaged Thinker and Ethical Citizen were completed during the previous two years.

The Committee plans to develop an online questionnaire for the public to provide input as well as the community forums and a large student forum.

#06\13 C SMITH - That the Community Engagement process for 2012 \ 2013 school year be approved as presented.

CARRIED

LOCAL ATA EXECUTIVE MEETING

The next Local ATA Executive Meeting date is March 13th, 2013. Chair Bowie and Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, plan to attend.

ASBA ZONE 4 MEETING

Vice Chair Miller together with Trustees Heiberg and Severson will be attending the ASBA Zone 4 Meeting on January 28th, 2013 in Stettler.

ASBA ZONE 4 MEETING – CAMROSE - MARCH 25TH, 2013

Trustees discussed topics for the proposed showcase for the ASBA Zone 4 Meeting to be held in Camrose on March 25th, 2013.

MEETING WITH MINISTER

Trustee Fielding, together with Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, and Imogene Walsh, Assistant Superintendent – Business, reported on their attendance at the School Boards' Meeting with the Education Minister, Honourable Jeff Johnson, and Finance Minister, Honourable Doug Horner, in Calgary on December 18th, 2012.

ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING

Trustees Heiberg and Smith reported on their attendance at the Administrators' Meeting on Tuesday, January 8th, 2013 at the Norsemen Inn. Topics discussed included, developing collegial support within our schools, with other schools, and with Division Office, along with Three Year Plans, school budget and balances, school safety with the Lockdown Administrative Procedure, and Student Report Card Samples.

FLAGSTAFF INTER-MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

Trustees Miller and Smith, together with Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, and Diane Hutchinson, Communications Coordinator, reported on their attendance at the Flagstaff Inter-municipal Partnership Committee meeting on Monday, January 7, 2013 in Sedgewick.

ASBA STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

Trustees provided their recommendations for input to the ASBA Strategic Plan 2013 – 2016. Trustee Smith will forward the submission to ASBA.

BAWLf GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

The tentative date for the Bawlf School Groundbreaking Ceremony is scheduled for March 22nd, 2013.

MINISTER’S MEETING WITH BRSD

The Honourable Jeff Johnson, Minister of Education, will be meeting with Battle River School Division Trustees and Senior Administration in the Division Office Board Room on January 25th, 2013.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:14 p.m. and reconvened at 2:27 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION FOR POSSIBLE SCHOOL CLOSURE

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, informed Trustees that on November 22nd, 2012, the Board accepted for information that the following schools had currently fallen to their critical minimum enrolments as per BRSD Policy 15:

1) Rosalind School	2) Lougheed School	3) Strome School
<i>1-3: 18 students</i>	<i>1-3: 25 students</i>	<i>1-9: 0 students</i>
<i>4-6: 13 students</i>	<i>4-6: 17 students</i>	
<i>7-9: 14 students</i>	<i>7-9: 5 students</i>	
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<i>1-9: 45 students</i>	<i>1-9: 47 students</i>	<i>1-9: 0 students</i>

On an annual basis, critical minimum enrollments are reported for the following fundamental purposes:

- 1) Ensuring Board Trustees and community members are aware of low enrollment numbers across Battle River School Division,
- 2) Ensuring minimum quality educational standards are being monitored and upheld on a regular basis, and
- 3) Ensuring administration critically analyzes the educational program of individual schools within the community context as well as the broader divisional and provincial landscape. In turn, this analysis may prompt further and deeper investigation/consultation through a formal process in accordance with the School Act, Regulations and Battle River School Division Policy.

In accordance with the fundamental purposes above, Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, is recommending that the Board of Trustees consider the possible closures of Rosalind, Loughheed and Strome for the 2013/2014 school year.

Further, this recommendation is provided within a 'lens' and acknowledgement of the complex and interrelated variables the possible school closure process impacts. This includes the relational, political and economic factors.

As Superintendent of Schools, Dr Larry Payne is making these recommendations based on the following rationale:

- 1) The first and ultimately the deciding factor in bringing this forward is strictly educational in nature. As a teacher and educational leader, in all good conscience, Dr Payne believes that better educational opportunities can be provided within BRSD for these students. When looking ahead to the evolving educational changes to curriculum and instruction, Dr Payne believes even more strongly that the existing structures are not and will not be adequate.
- 2) As leaders, we are charged to look to the future for the entire system. Our goal is for BRSD to provide vibrant, relevant educational experiences for our students and collaborative, supportive working environments for staff. To do this, it is very clear that our system must adjust to our funding and enrollment realities. The board has identified the need for strategic planning; these closures will assist that process and allow us to effectively look ahead and plan for sustainable high quality education.
- 3) As Superintendent, it is Dr Larry Payne's obligation to provide parents and community with a vision of future programming for students, the future viability of the school and the possible impact on the community. Dr Payne believes this is information they want and deserve. Past experience has taught us that this endeavor is extremely challenging. The process requires extensive work on the part of the board and administration to communicate clearly. Dr Payne has experienced the painstaking work of this process and the potential anger and frustrations for communities as well as the difficulty for both Board and Administration to provide specific and concrete answers that communities want and deserve. However, living with uncertainty and the prospect of closure constantly looming does not create healthy learning or working environments.

In accordance with the rationale above, Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, is recommending that the Board of Trustees consider the possible closures of Rosalind, Lougheed and Strome for the 2013/2014 school year.

#07\13 J FIELDING - That the Board pass a motion to consider possible closure of Rosalind School effective June 30th, 2013, the final vote to be scheduled for April 25th, 2013.

Trustee Severson requested a recorded vote.

In Favour Of the Motion

Opposed To The Motion

N Metz
C Smith
R Heiberg
J Fielding
S Grundberg

P Miller
D Bowie
K Severson

CARRIED

#08\13 J FIELDING – That the Board pass a motion to consider possible closure of Lougheed School effective June 28th, 2013, the final vote to be scheduled for April 25th, 2013.

Trustee Severson requested a recorded vote.

In Favour Of the Motion

Opposed To The Motion

K Severson
C Smith
R Heiberg
J Fielding
S Grundberg

P Miller
D Bowie
N Metz

CARRIED

#09\13 P MILLER - That, according to criteria noted in Policy 15 ‘School/Program Closure’, combined with exemptions from the requirements of Section four through seven of the *Closure of Schools Regulation*, as approved by the Honourable Jeff Johnson, Minister of Education, the Strome School be closed as of January 11th, 2013.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 3:12 p.m. and reconvened at 3:19 p.m.

COMMUNICATION SCENARIOS

Possible School Closure

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, will inform the schools and school communities of the Board's decision to consider possible closure of Rosalind and Loughheed Schools. Community Meetings to discuss this consideration will be held on February 27th, 2013 in Rosalind and February 28th, 2013 in Loughheed.

\$3.8 Million Funding Reduction

Trustees discussed the process and suggested draft messages regarding the \$3.8 million funding reduction and budget implications.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 4:04 p.m.

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