

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON JANUARY 24TH, 2013, COMMENCING AT 9:04 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 9:04 a.m.

Cheryl Kropinske, Director of Finance, and public guests joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

#10\13 J FIELDING – That the Board approve the agenda with the following additions and amendment:

TRUSTEE MATTERS

11.4 Board Governance

TRUSTEE REPORTS

12.1 Camrose and Area Alcohol and Drug Task Force

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

8.3 Wind Power Project Update be moved to 10.2 In Camera.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#11\13 K SEVERSON – That the Board of Trustees adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of January 10th, 2013 as amended.

CARRIED

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Chair Bowie welcomed Cheryl Kropinske and invited her presentation. Ms Kropinske, Director of Finance, provided Interim Financial Statements and Budget Reports as of December 31st, 2012 and reviewed the documents with the Trustees.

ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, informed Trustees that, in accordance with the expectation for all Schools and Departments, Policy 22, Reserves, Surpluses, and Deficits, is also a requirement for the Board and Administration Budget.

As such, Cheryl Kropinske, Director of Finance, presented, for review, the Board component of the overall Administration Budget which included two years of historical information.

Trustees discussed and provided input and possible direction into their Board component of the Budget. Ms Kropinske will use this feedback to prepare a draft Policy 22 document for the Board's consideration at the February 28th, 2013 Board Meeting.

LETTER FROM TOWN OF DAYSLAND

Chair Bowie brought to Trustees attention a letter from Darrell McNabb, Mayor of the Town of Daysland, requesting a meeting with the Battle River School Division Board of Trustees to discuss the plan for Daysland School's future. Chair Bowie will contact Mr McNabb to schedule a meeting date and time.

POTENTIAL SCHOOL CLOSURE - DISCUSSION

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, informed Trustees that as a result of the Board motion passed on January 10th, 2013, administration has been directed to begin the potential school closure discussions, consultations and information sharing in relation to Lougheed and Rosalind Schools. This marks the beginning of a formal process which is scheduled to conclude with a Board decision and vote on April 25th, 2013.

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the process. He explained that the process will begin with administrative presentations to Trustees providing specific and unique information relating to each school. This forms the foundation for the content to be provided at the community meetings at each of the two locations. Following the community meetings, opportunities will be provided for the Board to hear community delegations who wish to make presentations.

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, reiterated that the decision to bring the recommendation to the Board for consideration of possible school closure was not taken lightly, and reviewed the rationale behind this original recommendation on January 10th, 2013.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:11 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

Milton Gilbertson, community member, and public guests joined the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

COMMUNITY MEMBER PRESENTATION

Chair Bowie welcomed Mr Gilbertson and invited his presentation. Mr Gilbertson provided a summary of his accomplishments and previous experience.

Mr Gilbertson is concerned that categories of evaluation in the Student Assessment Administrative Procedure are too broad to provide an accurate measurement of learning, and can give students a false impression with such a wide range of achievement.

Mr Gilbertson's report indicated that there must be tighter reins on late assignments. Also, high achieving students who complete their work on time are feeling the system is not treating them fairly.

Mr Gilbertson requested the Board reconsider implementation of Administrative Procedure #360 Student Assessment at the High School level.

Mr Gilbertson thanked the Board for inviting his presentation. Chair Bowie thanked Mr Gilbertson for his well spoken presentation.

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, thanked Mr Gilbertson for his presentation. Dr Payne requested the Board of Trustees to allow him to present his final report on Student Assessment at the February 14th, 2013 Board Meeting.

Mr Gilbertson and public guests left the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:28 a.m. and reconvened at 11:39 a.m.

Mr Thomas Midbo, Principal, Charlie Killam School, and Jennifer Hastings, Project Coordinator of Taking Action on Bullying, Camrose Parent Link Centre joined the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

TAKING ACTION ON BULLYING PROGRAM

Chair Bowie welcomed Thomas Midbo, Principal, Charlie Killam School, and Jennifer Hastings and invited their presentation.

Mr Midbo provided an overview of how the Taking Action on Bullying Program in Charlie Killam School has evolved over the past four years with the assistance and support of Jennifer Hastings.

Ms Hastings informed Trustees that the Taking Action on Bullying Project is a collaborative effort with Alberta Education and Camrose and District Support Services. The focus for success with this program has been on building healthy relationships, conflict resolution, student led activities including organizing open house for new students, student leadership workshops, and positive behavior at school. Through this program Charlie Killam School has experienced a significant decrease in student suspensions.

Chair Bowie thanked Mr Midbo and Ms Hastings for their presentation and sharing the positive impact this program is having with students at Charlie Killam School.

Mr Midbo and Ms Hastings left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:13 p.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (1:13 p.m.)

#12\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 (1:27 p.m.)

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

Reid Lansing, Vice Principal, Camrose Composite High School, and public guests joined the meeting at 1:29 p.m.

SCHOOL BASED STUDENT ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION

Chair Bowie welcomed Reid Lansing and invited his presentation. Mr Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction, introduced Reid Lansing by explaining that Mr Lansing is applying the principles of assessment using the four levels at a high school curriculum level. Mr Jarrett explained it is Important to address the misnomer in educational conversation around assessment about where this application belongs in that it is not an elementary or junior high application nor is it applicable only to complementary courses. Educators have a responsibility to assess the whole child and all subjects impact overall student development.

Mr Lansing provided a brief overview of his previous experience and growth in the area of outcome based assessment and reporting.

Mr Lansing explained that the rationale for outcomes based assessment and reporting de-emphasizes tasks while emphasizing the knowledge, understandings, and skills outlined in the curriculum by clearly and explicitly placing assessment focus on specific curricular outcomes. Mr Lansing defined his six step process to build his outcome based assessment report card and his process for converting levels to percentages.

Mr Lansing thanked Trustees for inviting him to share his experience and growth with student assessment. Chair Bowie thanked Mr Lansing for his presentation.

Mr Reid Lansing left the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:25 p.m. and reconvened at 2:32 p.m.

Cheryl Kropinske, Director of Finance, joined the meeting 2:32 p.m.

POTENTIAL SCHOOL CLOSURE DISCUSSION (Continued)

Projected Enrollment Numbers - Rosalind

Diane Hutchinson, Communications Coordinator, presented a comparison of student enrolment numbers by ward in Battle River School Division from 1995 to September 30th, 2012, together with a graph on population trends relevant to Rosalind School over the same period of time. Battle River School Division has experienced an overall reduction in student enrolment by 20% since 1995. The projected student enrolment in Rosalind School for the school year 2013 – 2014 is 40.

Funding Allocation - Rosalind

Imogene Walsh, Assistant Superintendent – Business, presented the funding allocation information for Rosalind School for the past five school years together with the number of students enrolled each year. Ms Walsh explained how the financial allocation projection and anticipated teacher FTE was arrived at.

Staffing Implications - Rosalind

Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction, presented the teaching FTEs for the past five years together with the projected teaching FTEs for 2013 – 2014 school year. Along with teacher FTE reduction, the average teacher preparation time by year has also been reduced to no allocated time for the past two school years. Mr Jarrett also reviewed with Trustees the decrease in allocation of support staff hours by school year for the past five years in Rosalind School.

Mr Jarrett presented a comparison of grade configurations at Rosalind School over the past three school years together with a projection of the grade configuration for the 2013 – 2014 school year to accommodate the possible 40 students and based on the estimated budget allocations.

Projected Enrollment Numbers - Lougheed

Diane Hutchinson, Communications Coordinator, presented the population trends relevant to Lougheed School based on the census information compiled by Statistics Canada. The Flagstaff County school population has decreased by 41% since 1995. The projected student enrolment in Lougheed School for the school year 2013 – 2014 is 45 including Mennonite students.

Funding Allocation - Lougheed

Imogene Walsh, Assistant Superintendent – Business, presented the funding allocation information for Lougheed School for the past five school years together with the number of students enrolled each year. Ms Walsh explained how the financial allocation projection and anticipated teacher FTE was arrived at.

Staffing Implications - Lougheed

Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction, presented the teaching FTEs for the past five years together with the projected teaching FTEs for the 2013 – 2014 school year. Along with teacher FTE reduction, the average teacher preparation time by year has also been significantly reduced. Mr Jarrett also reviewed with Trustees the decrease in allocation of support staff hours by school year for the past five years in Lougheed School which includes the elimination of the Librarian position.

Mr Jarrett presented a comparison of grade configurations at Lougheed School over the past three school years together with a projection of the grade configuration for the 2013 – 2014 school year to accommodate the possible 45 students and based on the estimated budget allocations.

Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, informed Trustees that this will be the information presented at the Community Meetings scheduled in Rosalind on February 27th, 2013 and Lougheed on February 28th, 2013.

ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION 2013 CONFERENCE

#13\13 C SMITH - That, for the 2012 - 2013 school year, the Board of Trustees will cover the cost of registration for the 2013 two full day Conference and hotel accommodation for six parent representatives from six individual School Councils to attend the Alberta School Councils Connection 2013.

CARRIED

TRUSTEE MATTERS – ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE #360

Vice Chair Miller led a round table discussion as Trustees shared their views on the merit of completing the Student Assessment Review earlier than originally planned. Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, confirmed that he will present the results of the review and finalized Administrative Procedure #360, Student Assessment implementation, to Trustees at the next Board Meeting on February 14th, 2013.

MINISTER’S MEETING WITH BRSD

Vice Chair Miller together with Trustees Grundberg, Heiberg, Metz, and Severson, as well as Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, Ray Bosh, Assistant Superintendent – Student Services, Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent – Instruction, Imogene Walsh, Assistant Superintendent – Business, and Diane Hutchinson, Communications Coordinator, will attend the meeting with Honourable Jeff Johnson, Minister of Education, at the Camrose Composite High School on January 25th, 2013. Honourable Verlyn Olson, QC, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and MLA for Wetaskiwin – Camrose, and Jacquie Fenske, MLA for Fort Saskatchewan – Vegreville, will also be in attendance at the meeting.

BOARD GOVERNANCE

Trustee Smith has asked that Chair Bowie, Vice Chair Miller and Dr Larry Payne, Superintendent of Schools, meet to review the Board Governance Model together with the role of the Board and Superintendent of Schools.

CAMROSE AND AREA ALCOHOL AND DRUG RESPONSE TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Severson reported on his attendance at a recent Camrose and Area Alcohol and Drug Response Task Force Committee Meeting. The Committee is requesting members to gather input on what direction they would like to see the Task Force focus.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 4:29 p.m.

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