

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON May 28, 2009, COMMENCING AT 9:36 A.M.

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
KEN OFFORD (joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.)
VICTOR PETRUK
KENDALL SEVERSON
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

PETER MILLER

ALSO PRESENT

DR LARRY PAYNE, Superintendent of Schools
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent
BILL SCHULTE, Assistant Superintendent (Business)
DIANE HUTCHINSON, Communications Officer
SHIRLEY FAIRALL, Recording Secretary

C. SMITH IN THE CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and advised that Trustee Miller is unable to attend today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE CONTINUATION AGENDA AND ADDITIONAL ITEMS AS LISTED:

#52\09 H Syed – That the continuation agenda be approved as presented with the addition of the distributed add-on sheet and the following:

Change:

7.13 "Senior Management Compensation" to 7.14.1;
7.21 "Principals' Academy Update" from New Business to Information Items 10.17; and
10.8 "ATA Liaison Meeting" from Information Items to In-Camera Session 5.2

Add:

7.14.2 "Staff Increases"

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:38 a.m.)

#53\09 H Syed - That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Payne, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Assistant Superintendent (Business) Schulte, Communications Officer Hutchinson, and Recording Secretary Fairall be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 10:24 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:24 a.m.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES POLICY UPDATE

The Healthy Lifestyles Policy will be brought forward at the June 18th, 2009 Board of Trustees Meeting.

ASBA VIDEO CONFERENCING SESSION

Chair Smith and Vice Chair Zeniuk attended the ASBA Video Conferencing Session on Tuesday, May 26th, 2009 in the Library at the Camrose Composite High School. The new format of the proposed policy statements to be considered at the ASBA Spring General Meeting was presented.

ASBALE LANGUAGES SURVEY

The Trustees responded to a survey on languages education from the Alberta School Boards' Association for Languages Education.

BAILEY THEATRE TOUR

Chair Smith will contact the Bailey Theatre Society to arrange a tour for interested trustees.

PUTTING THE PUBLIC BACK IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Chair Smith presented a summary report of the Summit on Public Involvement in Public Education and requested the Trustees review the document and bring forward ideas to the June Board meeting on bringing community involvement into the Battle River School Division. Chair Smith will meet with Ray Bosh, Deputy Superintendent, Ken Robitaille, Director of Technology, and Diane Hutchinson, Communications Officer, to review the Trustees' portion of the Battle River School Division website and consider options to refresh the site.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROPOSAL

Dr Payne advised that though the idea of Junior Kindergarten has merit it requires additional research and consultation. This proposal will be revisited in the 2009 \ 2010 school year.

BUDGET APPROVAL

#54\09 K OFFORD - That the Board approves the 2009 – 2010 budget as presented to the Board of Trustees on April 23rd, 2009 and May 14th, 2009.

CARRIED

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION SALARIES

#55\09 P Zeniuk - That, effective September 1, 2009 employee number 2285-14 receive a market adjustment of \$5000.00; and further

That effective September 1, 2009, employee number 2285-13 receive a market adjustment of \$2000.00; and further

That, effective September 1, 2009, employees 2285-12, 2285-13, 2285-14, 2285-15 and 2285-16 receive a 4.8% salary increase, plus an annual health spending account of \$400.00 per person.

CARRIED

STAFF INCREASES

Contract Caretakers

#56\09 K Severson -That, effective September 1, 2009, the Board provides a 4.8% increase to the contracts of contract caretakers.

CARRIED

Division Staff

#57\09 V Petruk -That effective September 1, 2009, the Board provides a 4.8% increase to the grids of: Division Office staff, ISC staff, maintenance staff, mechanics, school secretaries, educational assistants, and librarians, plus an annual health spending account of \$400.00 per person.

CARRIED

Career Transition Advisors and CHAMP Workers

#58\09 R Heiberg - That effective September 1, 2009, the Board provides a 4.8% increase to the grids of the Career Transition Advisors and Champ Workers, plus an annual health spending account of \$ 400.00 per person.

CARRIED

Caretakers – Jack Stuart, Charlie Killam, Sparling, and Chester Ronning Schools

#59\09 K Offord - That effective September 1, 2009, the Board provides an increase of 4.8% to the contracts of the caretakers at the Jack Stuart, Charlie Killam, Sparling and Chester Ronning Schools.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:55 a.m. and reconvened at 11:07 a.m.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUEST FOR CCHS

#60\09 H SYED – That the Board approves, in principle and subject to Administrative Procedure 261 ‘Travel Study’, the international travel trip to London, Paris, Madrid and Barcelona by the Camrose Composite High School International Travel Club students during spring break 2010.

CARRIED

INSPIRING EDUCATION

Dr. Larry Payne, Trustee Miller and Trustee Offord will attend the ASBA Inspiring Education Session on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2009 in Edmonton.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

#61\09 V Petruk - That the Board provides the basic fee for basic student accident insurance for each student during school hours or at any school approved/supervised activity, and further that the insurance coverage include ECS students registered in Board-operated programs, those students registered in privately-operated ECS programs offered in cooperation with the Board, and to Home Education students registered with the Board, to the extent that the insurance company will permit such coverage at the rates established for the students registered in regular school programs, and further that, in addition to the basic coverage, the insurance coverage provides an additional amount per insured student for the IAP Kids Plus Enhanced Option Package.

CARRIED

READING UNIVERSITY

Diane Hutchinson, Communications Officer, provided an update on the Reading University, a project initiated by the Battle River Community Foundation with the Battle River School Division. At the Open House Information and Registration Night held on May 20th, 2009, 30 students registered for the July 6th to 31st, 2009 session. This is a pilot project offered this year to Camrose schools only. Chair Smith requested that Ms Hutchinson bring the volunteer schedule to the June 11th, 2009 Board meeting.

EDWIN PARR COMMITTEE UPDATE

The ASBA Zone 4 Edwin Parr Teacher Award Banquet was held at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer on May 25th, 2009. Jana Kemmere of the Olds Junior \ Senior High School in Chinook's Edge School Division was awarded the 2009 Edwin Parr Award.

COMMITTEE REPORTS UPDATE

The Trustees were requested to submit their written Committee reports by Friday, June 5th, 2009 to be included in the June 11th, 2009 Board meeting.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD COUNCIL MEETING

Trustee Offord provided an update on the Public School Board Council Meeting he attended April 23rd to 26th, 2009 in Slave Lake, Alberta.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Zeniuk, Trustees Miller, Syed, Offord, Petruk, Severson and Heiberg, along with Dr Payne and Ms Hutchinson reported on their meeting with MLAs Veryln Olson, George Rogers, and Doug Griffiths on May 25th, 2009 at the Legislature Building.

Chair Smith, Trustees Petruk and Heiberg, Dr Payne and Ms Hutchinson reported on the Beaver County Meeting of May 27th, 2009 at the Ryley School. Ray Bosh, Deputy Superintendent and Ken Robitaille, Director of Technology joined the meeting by teleconference.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:06 p.m. and reconvened at 1:41 p.m.

Maureen Parker, Director of Curriculum joined the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES

Advanced Acting 15-25-35

#62\09

R Heiberg - That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Advanced Acting 15, 25, 35, as developed by the Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District, be offered as a locally authorized course in Battle River School Division #31 until August 31st, 2011, subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Director of Instructional Services in his letter dated February 25th, 2009.

CARRIED

Musical Theatre 15-25-35

- #63\09 H Syed - That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Musical Theatre 15, 25, 35, as developed by the Calgary Board of Education, be offered as a locally authorized course in Battle River School Division #31 until August 31st, 2012, subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Acting Superintendent in his letter dated February 24th, 2009.

CARRIED

Pop Culture 35

- #64\09 K Offord - That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Pop Culture 35, as developed by Parkland School Division, be offered as a locally authorized course in Battle River School Division No. 31 until August 31st, 2011, subject to the conditions as outlined by the Superintendent of Schools in her letter of June 2nd, 2009.

CARRIED

Team Leadership 15-25-35

- #65\09 P Zeniuk - That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Team Leadership 15, 25, 35, as developed by the Calgary Board of Education, be offered as a locally authorized course in Battle River School Division #31 until August 31st, 2010, subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Acting Superintendent in his letter dated February 24th, 2009.

CARRIED

Advanced Techniques: Stained Glass 15-25-35

- #66\09 K Severson - That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Advanced Techniques: Stained Glass 15, 25, 35, as developed by the Battle River School Division No. 31, be offered as a locally developed course in Battle River School Division #31 until August 31st, 2012, subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Director of Curriculum Branch in her letter dated May 12th, 2009.

CARRIED

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Chair Smith welcomed Ms Parker's presentation. The format of the Public Speaking Competition was streamlined this year to one event held April 21st, 2009 at the Super 8 Hotel from approximately 5:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Ten speakers participated; five Junior High students from Bashaw, Bawlf, Daysland, Hay Lakes, and New Norway and five Senior High students from Bawlf, Daysland, Hay Lakes, New Norway, and Sedgewick.

The first and second place winners of both Junior High and Senior High levels of this competition advanced to the Zone level public speaking in Clearview School Division on May 2nd, 2009.

Ms Parker left the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

D’Arcy Evans, President of Hardisty Parent Advisory Council, Joan Zimmer and Brenda Buelow joined the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

HARDISTY PARENT GROUP

Chair Smith welcomed the Hardisty Parent Advisory representatives and invited their presentation. Ms Zimmer served as spokesperson for the group.

Ms Zimmer thanked the Board of Trustees for this opportunity to present and asked that the Board consider providing additional funding to the Hardisty school to retain a Kindergarten to grade 9 program. Ms Zimmer provided the following points:

- accepting the Kindergarten class into the Allan Johnstone School has a negative impact on the budget which affects other programs offered
- sending the grade nine Allan Johnstone students to Central High Sedgewick Public School could have a negative impact on the other classes in the Allan Johnstone School and the community. Families may choose to send all their children to a school other than Allan Johnstone if their grade nine student leaves
- Allan Johnstone School would not have enough students to make up sports teams
- if the grade nine students attend the Central High Sedgewick Public School they will not be able to continue with French classes
- currently the cost of transporting students to Industrial Arts and Home Ec classes in Central High Sedgewick Public School is shared with Lougheed School and Killam Public School. By removing the Allan Johnstone contribution to this cost the two remaining schools may not be able to continue sending their students to Sedgewick for these classes
- there are no schools north, east, or south of Hardisty but families living west of Hardisty may choose to send their students to another region instead of school bussing their students the extra distance to Central High Sedgewick Public School
- the enrollment numbers previous to regionalization do not fluctuate much and the Town of Hardisty anticipates a rise in population which would cause an increased enrollment in school. A letter from the Mayor of Hardisty predicts at least six positions will be required to maintain the plants created by the industrial construction currently underway in Hardisty bringing families into the area
- the grade 4 \ 5 split class of 31 students is not acceptable as it is well above the ACOL guidelines and will not allow the school to get funding unless the regional average is high

- > the group submitted a page from the Battle River Regional School Division budget report which indicates an accumulated operating surplus which provided additional funding for three smaller schools, Lougheed, Rosalind, and Strome. A surplus amount is practical but it is felt that any surplus this year needs to be used to supplement the Allan Johnstone school budget to manage through this difficult year
- > the group asked the Board to consider how classroom sizes affect the students and how reducing classes affects the community. The group is shocked that with an enrollment of 120 a classroom at their school would be lost.

Dr Payne thanked the parent group for their presentation and applauded their passion to provide the best education for their students. The reduction in budget funding from the Alberta Government will impact a number of schools across the region and the Board of Trustees and administration are looking for alternative solutions.

Chair Smith thanked the group for attending the meeting and the information brought forward through their presentation. The Board requested administration to review the situation and bring a recommendation to the June 11th, 2009 Board meeting.

Ms Zimmer, Ms Evans and Ms Buelow left the meeting at 2:29 p.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (2:30 p.m.)

#67\09 K Offord - That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Payne, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Assistant Superintendent (Business) Schulte, Communications Officer Hutchinson, and Recording Secretary Fairall be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 2:51 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 2:51 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:53 p.m. and reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF ALBERTA ARTS DAY

Chair Smith brought the Board's attention to a letter received from the Honourable Dave Hancock, Minister of Education, encouraging school jurisdictions to participate in the three day Alberta Arts Day on September 18th to 20th, 2009.

Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent, Planning \ System Improvement, joined the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

THREE YEAR PLAN

Chair Smith welcomed Mr Jarrett to the meeting and invited his presentation. Mr Jarrett provided a review of the Three Year Plan. Last year priorities were identified and, from these priorities, goals were established. This year, using the goals identified last year, specific targets and measures were identified to gauge our growth in relation to each goal. These will be rolled out to the Division and presented at the Learning Institute. Battle River School Division's Satisfaction Survey will begin to be revamped to align with these targets and measures.

Mr Jarrett also presented the Accountability Pillar Overall Summary which will be presented at the Learning Institute and rolled out to the Division.

Dr Payne thanked Mr Jarrett for all the work he has done for the success of this initiative.

PRINCIPALS' ACADEMY UPDATE

Mr Jarrett provided an update on the positive progress made with the Principals' Academy during the 2008 \ 2009 school year and presented a draft of the Roles and Responsibilities Statement for the Principals of Battle River School Division.

ALTERNATE SCHOOL CALENDAR PROPOSALS

Mr Jarrett reported that four of the five schools that have presented an alternate school calendar proposal have been approved for the school calendar year of 2009 \ 2010 school year.

LETTER FROM MUSIC TEACHER

Trustees reviewed a letter from Bob Bailey, Music Teacher, Charlie Killam School, in which he expressed concerns around proposed 2009 – 2010 timetabling and the impact this will have on the music program at the school in the Battle River School Division. Chair Smith and Dr Payne will respond to this letter.

Mr Jarrett left the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

ASBA SPRING GENERAL MEETING

The Trustees were reminded to review the ASBA Issues, Budget and Bylaws Bulletin, Addendum 1, and the Proposed Policy Position Statements in preparation for discussion at the ASBA Spring General Meeting on June 1st and 2nd, 2009 in Red Deer.

DEATH OF A TRUSTEE OF EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD

Chair Smith will relay condolences on behalf of the Board to the family of Jim Urlacher, a long time trustee with the Edmonton Catholic Schools, who passed away on May 16, 2009.

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Dr Payne and Chair Smith reported on their attendance at the Edmonton Public School Board meeting on May 25th, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

CHERYL SMITH, CHAIR

WILLIAM SCHULTE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT (BUSINESS)

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