

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2008,
COMMENCING AT 9:40 A.M.**

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
PETER MILLER
KEN OFFORD
VICTOR PETRUK
KENDALL SEVERSON
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED (joined the meeting at 10:14 a.m.)
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

LARRY PAYNE, Superintendent of Schools
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer
DIANE HUTCHINSON, Communications Officer
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

C. SMITH IN THE CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Don Gillies, Assistant Superintendent (Personnel), was present at the meeting at the call to order.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#01/08 K. OFFORD – That the agenda be approved with the additions of those items noted on the distributed 'Additions to Regular Meeting' sheet.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#02/08 P. MILLER – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 13, 2007 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

FOLLOW-UP FROM BOARD PLANNING SESSION

Chair Smith invited Mr. Gillies to provide a follow-up from some items discussed at the Board Planning Session in November 2007 with respect to reviewing the interview process to better enable the hiring of staff that would be a good fit with Battle River School Division #31.

Mr. Gillies left the meeting at 9:53 a.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:53 A.M.)

#03/08 P. ZENIUK – 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, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, Communications Officer Hutchinson, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

Trustee Syed joined the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 11:37 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 11:37 a.m.

TRUSTEE BENEFIT PACKAGE

Declaring a conflict of interest, Trustee 2285-10 left the meeting at 11:37 a.m. for the discussion and vote on the Trustee Benefit Package.

#04/08 V. PETRUK – That, due to the ineligibility of Trustee 2285-10 for benefits through the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan, an amount of \$3,670 be paid to the Trustee on a one-time basis only.

CARRIED

Trustee 2285-10 rejoined the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Trustee Heiberg reviewed proposed changes to policy 9 'Board Representatives', Schedule A of Policy 9, and Schedule A of policy 8 'Committees of the Board'.

#05/08 R. HEIBERG – That the Board approves the amendments to policy 9 ‘Board Representatives’; Schedules A and B of policy 9; and Schedule A of policy 8 ‘Committees of the Board’.

CARRIED

ATTENDANCE AT MINISTER’S EDUCATION LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION AWARD

Trustees Severson, Petruk, and Miller; Chair Smith; and Superintendent of Schools Payne will attend the Minister’s Education Leadership Recognition Award ceremony in Wetaskiwin on January 28, 2008.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATORS WORKSHOP

#06/08 K. OFFORD – That the Board Chair and Vice-Chair serve on the planning committee for the Board/Administrators’ Workshop scheduled for February 21 and 22, 2008.

CARRIED

BOARD COMMITTEE DAY – JANUARY 24, 2008

Chair Smith noted that facilitator Shirley Stiles will lead the Board in a discussion with respect to excellence in trusteeship at the Board Committee Day on January 24, 2008.

SCHOOL TOURS

A schedule for school tours for Trustees will be set up for a time following spring break 2008.

TERMS OF REFERENCE – CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

#07/08 V. PETRUK – That the following statement be added to the terms of reference for the Capital Planning Committee: “Depending on the scope and number of projects, the Capital Planning committee may form sub-committees that will report to the Capital Planning Committee of the Whole”.

CARRIED

FOCUS GROUP, FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE – ASBA

Trustee Offord volunteered to attend the Focus Group meeting of the Fiscal Accountability Committee of the Alberta School Boards Association scheduled for January 23, 2008 in Edmonton.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened at 1:23 p.m.

Mr. Bosh was absent at the call to order.

Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (CHRISTIAN SCHOOL)

Copies of a letter received from Mr. Lowell Befus were distributed to Trustees. Mr. Befus requested an update on his request for an alternative program (Christian School) in the City of Camrose.

Chair Smith will respond.

TRANSPORTATION APPEAL

At 1:27 p.m., Chair Smith welcomed Kevin and Angela Moller to the meeting and invited their presentation. The Moller family currently lives within the boundaries of the Forestburg School attendance area and their children attend Forestburg School. The Mollers are moving ¼ mile into the Killam School attendance area and requested bus gate service for their children to continue attending Forestburg School.

#08/08 H. SYED – That the Board amends the northerly boundary of the Forestburg School attendance area to include NE 4-43-14 W4.

By consensus, this discussion and voting on this motion was deferred to later in the meeting in order to accommodate an appointment noted on the agenda.

Ms Johnson left the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM UPDATE

At 2:13 p.m., Ms Smith welcomed Max Lindstrand, International Student Program Coordinator, to the meeting and invited his update to the international student program.

Mr. Bosh rejoined the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Lindstrand left the meeting at 2:54 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:55 p.m. and reconvened at 3:03 p.m.

Director of Transportation Johnson rejoined the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION APPEAL (continued)

#08/08 H. SYED – That the Board amends the northerly boundary of the Forestburg School attendance area to include NE 4-43-14 W4.
CARRIED

#09/08 H. SYED – That the Board request Administration and the Policy Development/Review Committee to conduct a review of school attendance area boundaries and policy 18 ‘Attendance Areas’.
CARRIED

Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, joined the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

CRITICAL MINIMUM ENROLMENTS

Notice of Motion – Edberg School

#10/08 V. PETRUK - That, pursuant to the provisions of Policy 15 ‘School/Program Closure’ and in compliance with the procedures outlined in Policy 15, the Board serves notice of its intention to consider the following motion at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held in March 2008:

Motion:

“That, according to criteria noted in Policy 15 ‘School/Program Closure’, the Edberg School be closed as of June 30, 2008.

CARRIED

Notice of Motion – Alliance School

#11/08 H. SYED - That, pursuant to the provisions of Policy 15 ‘School/Program Closure’ and in compliance with the procedures outlined in Policy 15, the Board serves notice of its intention to consider the following motion at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held in March 2008:

Motion:

“That, according to criteria noted in Policy 15 ‘School/Program Closure’, the Alliance School be closed as of June 30, 2008.

CARRIED

Ms Johnson left the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF DIVISION OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Ms Walsh invited Karen Doerksen to the meeting and introduced her to the Board as the new receptionist at Division Office.

Trustees welcomed Ms Doerksen to Division Office.

Ms Walsh and Ms Doerksen left the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At 3:57 p.m. and declaring a conflict of interest, Trustee Severson left the meeting room during the discussion of the work of the Negotiating Committee.

Trustee Syed provided a review of the work of the Negotiating Committee at a meeting with the ATA Local held on December 17, 2007.

#12/08 H. SYED – That the Board adopts the Memorandum of Agreement and the Addendum of the Agreement signed on behalf of the Board by the Negotiating Committee on December 17, 2007.

CARRIED

Trustee Severson rejoined the meeting at 4:05 p.m. following voting on the above-noted motion.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (4:05 p.m.)

#13/08 P. ZENIUK – 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, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, Communications Officer Hutchinson, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 5:06 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 5:06 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING DATES – ALLIANCE AND EDBERG SCHOOLS

The dates for public meetings with respect to the notice of motions regarding the possible closure of the Alliance and Edberg Schools were set. The public meeting for the Alliance School is scheduled for January 31, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and the public meeting for the Edberg School is scheduled for February 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

At 5:07 p.m., Chair Smith recessed the regular meeting until 9:30 a.m. on January 24, 2008.

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