

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2007, COMMENCING AT 10:12 A.M.

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
PETER MILLER
KEN OFFORD
VICTOR PETRUK
KENDALL SEVERSON
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

LARRY PAYNE, Superintendent of Schools
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent (left the meeting at 2:03 p.m.)
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 10:12 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#214/07 H. SYED – That the agenda be approved with the addition of the following items:

6.4 Accountability Pillar Orientation Date Change

7.6 Meeting for Facilities Committee of the Capital Planning Committee

7.7 Technology Plan

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#215/07 K. OFFORD – That the minutes of the Organizational Meeting held on October 29, 2007 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

#216/07 R. HEIBERG – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 29, November 22 and 27, 2007 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (10:15 a.m.)

#217/07 P. MILLER – 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 10:52 a.m. and reconvened at 1:18 p.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 1:24 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 1:24 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Mr. Bosh noted that this year a new Three-Year Technology Plan must be developed and that a committee comprised of school staff, division office administrators, and one trustee will assist in the development of this Plan.

Trustee Petruk volunteered to serve as the Board member on the Technology Plan Development Committee.

Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, and Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

CRITICAL MINIMUM ENROLMENTS

Dr. Payne provided information with respect to possible grade configurations at the Edberg School for the next three years.

Dr. Payne reviewed a current summary of junior high complimentary course offerings in seven schools in Battle River School Division #31, notably Allan Johnstone, Bashaw, Bawlf, Edberg, Killam, New Norway, and Rosalind Schools.

The issue of critical minimum enrolments will continue to be discussed at the January 10, 2007 Board meeting.

Ms Walsh and Ms Johnson left the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Mr. Bosh left the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Rick Jarrett, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

FARM SAFETY PRESENTATION

At 2:04 p.m., Chair Smith welcomed Ms Marion Leithead to the meeting, invited introductions and Ms Leithead's presentation.

Mr. Jarrett introduced Ms Leithead, noting that she is working with the Bawlf and Daysland Schools on a curriculum for farm safety. Several Bawlf students and one teacher have worked on putting a book together and developed a resource on farm safety. The students received CTS credits for this work.

Ms Leithead noted that this project came about because she felt there are too many youngsters being hurt or killed in farm accidents. Booklets have been developed, one by a Bawlf School student, and funding has been received to print more of these booklets. A resource book has been developed for teachers to use as part of the curriculum. There is also a possibility of a farm safety video. Ms Leithead also expressed her desire to develop a web page and suggested that perhaps it could be added to a school or division web site.

In March 2008 Daysland School will host a Progressive Agriculture day. The goal of this is to educate so that there are fewer injuries and fatalities of children around farm machinery.

Ms Leithead would like these resources to become part of the health curriculum. She requested Board endorsement of these materials so that when the materials are ready for publication they might be implemented into the Alberta Education curriculum and would have the support of a school division to say it does work. She also requested consideration for this to be piloted by the school board as part of the curriculum, as she sees it as a real need in rural school divisions.

Ms Leithead left the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:26 p.m. and reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

ONE-TO-ONE COMPUTER INITIATIVE UPDATE

At 2:35 p.m., Chair Smith welcomed Patrick Whittleton, Teacher and Project Leader of the One-to-One Mobile Computer program initiative, invited introductions and invited his presentation.

Mr. Whittleton noted that this project actually begins in February 2008, but he has been working with one class on a pilot basis. He provided an overview of the project and showed the Board what some of the students in his pilot class

have been doing for the past 10 weeks in preparation for implementation of this project.

Dr. Payne commended Mr. Whittleton for the passion and skills that he brings to this project and for the skills he has exhibited in the pilot project.

Mr. Whittleton left the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

FARM SAFETY PROJECT

The Board referred the issue of the Farm Safety Project to Mr. Jarrett to determine how to best utilize the Farm Safety resources, developed by Marion Leithead, in Battle River School Division #31.

Ms Walsh and Ms Johnson rejoined the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

CRITICAL MINIMUM ENROLMENTS (continued)

Trustees continued their discussion with respect to programming needs at Edberg School in light of declining enrolments.

Ms Walsh provided information with respect to the possibilities for busing and bus times for children who currently attend the Alliance School.

The condition of the Alliance School building was also discussed.

Ms Walsh and Ms Johnson left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

UNFUNDED LIABILITY OF THE TEACHERS' PENSION

Chair Smith reported that a letter on behalf of the Board was sent to the Premier with respect to the unfunded liability of the teachers' pension.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 4:13 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

CLASS SIZE SURVEY

Dr. Payne provided clarification with respect to class sizes as requested by the Board at its last meeting.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEES

#218/07 H. SYED – That the Board approves the terms of reference as presented for the following Board Committees:

Audit Committee
Executive Committee
Communication Liaison Committee
Negotiating Committee – ATA
Negotiating/Liaison Committee – Caretakers and Bus Drivers
Policy Development Review Committee
Small Schools Committee
Student Affairs Committee
Consultative Process Committee
Alternative Programming Committee

CARRIED

MINISTER'S EDUCATION LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION AWARD

A letter from the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) was received inviting Board members to a meeting in Wetaskiwin on January 28, 2008 at which the Minister of Education will present the Minister's Education Leadership Recognition Awards.

REVIEW OF CURRENT INITIATIVES

Dr. Payne provided Trustees with information with respect to the Division's current initiatives and issues, as of August 2007. These include:

Modernization of Camrose Composite High School
Critical Minimum Enrolments
Defining excellence in teaching, administration and trusteeship
Moving forward in all forms of professional development – principal institute, assessment for learning, new teachers/mentors, leadership academy
Literacy and numeracy at the Division 1 level
Public education/alternative programming/French Immersion
Inclusive Schools Committee
Negotiations
Realignment of schools/boundaries in Camrose schools
Possible opening of Flagstaff Learning Together program
Raising the bar on performance – supervision and evaluation
Ever Active Initiative
CTS Skills Canada proposal
One-to-one mobile computer project
Rural Development Proposal
International Students' education
Enhanced communication

MOTION TO CONTINUE MEETING BEYOND 5:00 P.M.

#219/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board meeting continue beyond 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED

TOFIELD RYLEY BEAVER FCSS REQUEST

#220/07 R. HEIBERG – That the Board approves a contribution of an additional \$8000 above the current contribution to the Tofield Ryley Beaver FCSS for the Community Response Youth Outreach worker, and further that this funding be taken from the Board Innovation Fund.

CARRIED

LETTER RE BUSES IDLING

#221/07 K. OFFORD – That the letter from a concern parent with respect to buses idling be referred to the Policy Development/Review Committee for further research and recommendation.

CARRIED

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Board was notified that negotiations with the Alberta Teachers' Association Local #32 commence on December 17, 2007.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The information items were circulated during the meeting.

Three-Year Plan Summary and Review

Dr. Payne noted that following the submission of the Three-Year Plan to Alberta Education, a review by the Zone 4 Director occurs and a meeting with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent (System Planning and Improvement) takes place with the Zone 4 Director.

Dr. Payne was pleased to note that Battle River School Division #31 is in full compliance with Alberta Education's requirements in the Three-Year Plan.

Board/Administrators' Workshop

The Board/Administrators' workshop is scheduled for February 21 and 22, 2008 at the Red Deer Lodge.

Kudos

Chair Smith thanked everyone for their contributions to the work of the Board during the past year and wished everyone a happy holiday and Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

CHERYL SMITH, BOARD CHAIR

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

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