

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON MAY 10, 2007, COMMENCING AT 9:34 A.M.

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG (left the meeting at 12:04 p.m.)
KEN OFFORD (joined the meeting at 9:38 a.m.)
VICTOR PETRUK
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

ALSO PRESENT

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

B. HERDER IN THE CHAIR

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Herder called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Ms Herder congratulated and officially welcomed Dr. Larry Payne as the Superintendent-Elect with official duties to start September 2007.

Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

#60/07 H. SYED – That the agenda be approved with the following additions:

- 4.4 CW Sears School
- 6.16 Elections
- 6.17 Edwin Parr Award Dinner (May 28, 2007)

- 6.18 School Health Conference 2007
- 6.19 Healthy Lifestyles Committee

- 8.5 Accountability Pillar Overall Summary, Larry Payne

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#61/07 C. SMITH – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 12, 2007 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

THREE-YEAR PLAN DISCUSSION

Trustees engaged in a preliminary discussion on the Board’s priorities in the Three-Year Plan, in particular how these will affect the budget for 2007-08.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, reviewed a preliminary draft of the 2007-08 instruction budget.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:37 a.m. and reconvened at 10:47 a.m.

BUDGET DISCUSSION (continued)

Discussion on the draft 2007-08 instruction budget continued.

Imogene Walsh left the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Trustee Oberg left the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened at 1:13 p.m.

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

#62/07 H. SYED – That the regular meeting recess to allow Trustees to meet in-camera and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Assistant Superintendent Payne, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 1:27 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

UPDATE ON EDUCARE PROGRAM AT JACK STUART SCHOOL

Dr. Phillips provided an update on the possible implementation of the Educare Program at the Jack Stuart School for the 2007-08 school year. A final decision on whether the program will proceed will be made near the end of May or the first part of June.

Imogene Walsh joined the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

FEEDBACK FROM TRUSTEES ON DRAFT PAPERS RE SCHOOL GENERATED FUNDS AND FUND RAISING

Trustees provided feedback to the draft administrative procedures 'School Generated Funds' and 'Fund Raising'.

Ms Walsh left the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

FEEDBACK FROM TRUSTEES ON DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 546 'COMMUNITY USE OF VIDEO-CONFERENCING'

Trustees provided feedback to the draft administrative procedure 546 'Community Use of Video-Conferencing'. This was presented to principals and vice-principals at the Administrators' meeting held on May 8, 2007.

Don Gillies, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

STAFFING UPDATE

Mr. Gillies provided Trustees with an update on staffing.

Mr. Gillies left the meeting at 2:27 p.m.

CTS PROPOSAL, FORESTBURG SCHOOL

#63/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board approves, in principle, the Forestburg CTS Shop Project.

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL (IMR) PROJECTS

#64/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board approves the following IMR projects:

Viking School Fire Hydrant in the amount of \$10,000
Chester Ronning Learning Together Program Cabinets in the amount of \$5,000.

CARRIED

USED DUMP TRUCK

#65/07 C. SMITH – That the Board approves an additional \$10,000 for the dump truck (2006 International) purchase, and further that the funds be taken from the Operations and Maintenance budget.

CARRIED

PLAYGROUND APPROVALS AND TRANSFER FROM RESERVES

#66/07 K. OFFORD – That the Board approves the transfer of \$5,000 from the Playground Reserve for the Jack Stuart Playground project.

CARRIED

#67/07 R. HEIBERG – That the Board approves the following playground projects:

Jack Stuart School in the amount of \$5,000
Central High-Sedgewick Public School in the amount of \$7,500
Strome School in the amount of \$7,500

CARRIED

RYLEY SWIMMING POOL

#68/07 C. SMITH – That the Board rescinds motion #137/06, which states:

“That the Board directs the Secretary-Treasurer to enter into a 99-year lease agreement at \$1.00/year with the Beaver Heritage and Agricultural Society for the use of the land on which the Ryley Swimming Pool is located.”

CARRIED

#69/07 C. SMITH – That the Board directs the Secretary-Treasurer to enter into a sale agreement with the Beaver Heritage and Agricultural Society for the land on which the Ryley Swimming Pool is located for \$1.00, and further that the Board assumes the cost of disposal of the land.

CARRIED

COUNTY OF BEAVER/BATTLE RIVER SCHOOL DIVISION SALE OF JOINTLY OWNED LANDS

#70/07 K. OFFORD – That the Board notifies the County of Beaver that Battle River School Division #31 is willing to dispose of, by sale, the jointly owned lots listed below subject to Ministerial approval; that the Secretary-Treasurer be directed to negotiate an agreement with the County of Beaver with respect to the cost of disposal, and that the results of the negotiations be brought back to the Board for final approval:

Battle River School Division #31/Beaver County Jointly Owned Reserve Lots:

- Lindbrook Estates – 6 acres, Plan 792 0020, 2, 4MSR in SW 17-51-19-W4
- Park Glen Estates – 37 acres, Plan 792 1674; 37 MSR in NE 35-10-W4
- Beaver Creek Estates – 15 acres, Plan 862 2084; 5; 8MSR in NW 27-50-20-W4
- Sherwood Forest Estates – 14.5 acres, Plan 812 1138; 1; 38MSR in SW 35-51-20-W4
- Kingsway Estates – 15 acres, Plan 792 1325; 1; 14MSR in SE 12-50-20-W4
- Lori Estates – 15 acres, Plan 802 2329; 1; 36MSR in NE 15-50-20-W4

CARRIED

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE RENEWAL (IMR) AND SCHOOL CAPITAL ITEMS

#71/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board approves the 2007-08 IMR projects as noted on the distributed list, and further that this list be attached to and forms a part of these minutes.

CARRIED

#72/07 P. ZENIUK – That the Board approves the 2007-08 capital items as noted on the distributed list, and further that this list be attached to and forms a part of these minutes.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:51 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE AREA BOUNDARY REQUEST – DENNIS VOS

At 3:00 p.m., Chairman Herder welcomed Dennis Vos to the meeting and invited his presentation.

Mr. Vos request bus service from his residence at NE32-47-10-W4M to a school in Camrose.

Ms Johnson provided a map of the affected attendance area.

Mr. Vos left the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

#73/07 H. SYED – That any resident student located on NE32-47-19-W4M be permitted to attend the French Immersion Program at École Sifton School or the regular program at Round Hill School.

CARRIED

Ms Johnson left the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Rick Jarrett, Director of Curriculum, joined the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

LOCALLY APPROVED COURSES

#74/07 K. OFFORD – That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Band 15, 25, 35; Chamber Ensemble 15, 25, 35; Choir 15, 25, 35; Instrumental Jazz 15, 25, 35, and Vocal Jazz 15, 25, 35 (all 2007), as developed by the Calgary Board of Education, be offered as locally authorized courses in Battle River School Division #31, subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Superintendent of Educational Support Services, Calgary Board of Education, in his letter of March 14, 2007.

CARRIED

#75/07 P. ZENIUK – That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Sports Performance 15, 25, 35, as developed by Edmonton Public Schools, be offered as a locally authorized course in Battle River School Division #31, subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Program Coordinator of Edmonton Public Schools in his letter of March 9, 2007.

CARRIED

#76/07 V. PETRUK – That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Content Literacy 15 and 25, as developed by Edmonton Catholic School District, be offered as a locally authorized course in Battle River School Division #31 subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Director of Learning Support Services of Edmonton Catholic School District in her letter of April 18, 2007.

CARRIED

#77/07 C. SMITH – That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Learning Strategies 15 and 25, as developed by Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District, be offered as a locally authorized course in Battle River School Division #31 subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Direction of Secondary Instruction Services of the Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District in her letter of April 24, 2007.

CARRIED

#78/07 H. SYED – That, subject to approval by Alberta Education, Musical Theatre 15, 25, 35 (2006), as developed by the Calgary Board of Education, be offered as a locally authorized course in Battle River School Division #31 subject to the conditions of use outlined by the Acting Superintendent of Educational Support Services for the Calgary Board of Education in her letter of May 1, 2007.

CARRIED

#79/07 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 subject to the condition of use outlined by the Director of Secondary Instructional Services of the Calgary Roman Catholic Separate School District as outlined in her letter dated May 2, 2007.

CARRIED

Mr. Jarrett left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

CAPITAL PLAN

#80/07 H. SYED – That the Board approves the 2007-08 submission of the Ten-Year Capital Plan as presented with the following priorities:

1. Camrose Composite High School Modernization
2. Bawlf School Modernization
3. Bashaw School Modernization
4. Hay Lakes School Modernization
5. Sparling School Modernization
6. Alliance School – partial demolition
7. Killam School – one modular unit for music room
8. Sparling School – one modular unit for ECS room
9. Allan Johnstone School – one modular unit for music room
10. Lougheed School – four modular units for computer room, library and general classrooms
11. École Sifton School – one modular unit for special needs classroom

CARRIED

FOLLOW-UP ON CHANGE TO ECS ENTRANCE AGE

Trustees reviewed information from ECS (Early Childhood Services) teachers in the Division who responded to questions sent to them regarding the effects on students of the change to the entrance of kindergarten children. Admission to ECS in 2006-07 was for the child to be 5 years old before March 1st in the year in which the student started ECS, rather than December 31st. The responses involved 12 students.

Some of the comments appeared to indicate negative effects on children who were younger when they started ECS. Several trustees expressed concern about this.

- #81/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board continues the current entrance age for ECS students for 2007-08 school year, after which the entrance age will be re-evaluated based on system-wide research on the effects of the current entrance age.

CARRIED

FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK, LOUGHEED AND ALLAN JOHNSTONE SCHOOLS

Dr. Phillips provided an update on discussions with the principals at Lougheed and Allan Johnstone Schools with respect to the request for a four-day week at these schools. Dr. Phillips noted that school councils executives and school staff have discussed this and submitted a proposal. One further step necessary is to determine community support. The expectation is that 80% of the parents in a school must be in favor of a four-day school week before the Superintendent will support the proposal being presented to the Board.

ELECTRONIC SIGN FOR CHARLIE KILLAM SCHOOL

- #82/07 R. HEIBERG – That the Board grants approval to the Charlie Killam School to pursue the purchase and installation of a sign pending sufficient funding; and further that the Board denies the request for a Board contribution to the purchase of this sign.

CARRIED

SMALL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Herder provided a report of a meeting of the Small Schools Committee on May 2, 2007, noting that one discussion focused on the School Closure Policy, i.e. significant decline in enrolment rather than critical minimum enrolment (CME) numbers; timelines; limits of an effective program and what does an effective program look like; and creating key messages for staff.

- #83/07 R. HEIBERG – That the discussion with respect to policy 15 'School/Program Closure' be referred to the Policy Development/Review Committee with a report to be brought back to the Board at its June 14, 2007 meeting.

CARRIED

The Small Schools Committee also discussed the multi-age proposal update, the consultative process, and alternate methods of delivering education.

MOTION FOR THE MEETING TO GO BEYOND 5:00 P.M.

#84/07 K. OFFORD – That the Board meeting continues beyond 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED

ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR OVERALL SUMMARY

Dr. Larry Payne, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed the jurisdiction's overall summary of the Accountability Pillar Report received from Alberta Education on May 9, 2007.

SCHOOL HEALTH CONFERENCE 2007

Trustees were informed that the School Health Conference will be held in Vancouver, BC from June 8-10, 2007. It was noted that this conference fits well with the initiative of promoting healthy lifestyles.

MEETING RECESS

At 5:26 p.m., the regular meeting recessed until 9:30 a.m. on May 24, 2007.

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