

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON MARCH 8, 2007, COMMENCING
AT 9:31 A.M.**

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG
VICTOR PETRUK
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED
PATRICIA ZENIUK

ABSENT

KEN OFFORD

ALSO PRESENT

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools
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 9:31 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- #22/07 V. PETRUK – That the agenda be approved with the items noted on the distributed copies of the add-on sheet and
- 6.18 Request for Support for Barbara Coloroso Presentation

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- #23/07 H. SYED – That the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 8, 2007 be approved as presented.

CARRIED



IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:33 a.m.)

#24/07 P. ZENIUK – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

The in-camera session recessed at 10:10 a.m.

DAYSLAND SCHOOL TRAVEL CLUB REQUEST

#25/07 G. OBERG - That the Board approves, in principle and subject to the conditions outlined in Administrative Procedure 261 'Travel Study', the request by the Daysland School Travel Club for students to travel to Europe during Spring Break 2008, pending submission of the final itinerary to the Superintendent of Schools.

CARRIED

Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

REQUEST FOR URBAN PICK UP – TREVOR SORKEN

Director of Transportation Johnson informed Trustees of a request received from Trevor Sorken, resident in the town of Killam, for bus pick up for his children from his residence to the Killam School.

#26/07 G. OBERG – That the Board permits the children of Trevor Sorken to ride a school bus from their residence in Killam to the Killam School, and further that the Sorken children be permitted to ride the bus subject to payment of the fees established for ineligible riders, or prorated portion thereof.

CARRIED

HARDISTY BUS ROUTES

Trustees were informed that a bus driver in the Hardisty area is unable to drive bus for the foreseeable future due to illness. Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, advertised extensively and sent home urgent pleas for any interested parents to drive. She was able to obtain the services of a spare driver until the end of November 2006. Following that time, she was forced to amalgamate four bus routes into three. This caused some extended bus routes. She has not received any complaints about excessive ride times, however, she has received complaints about students having to wait approximately 30 minutes/day for a bus to go to, and from, Sedgewick.

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*corrected
via
motion
#45/07
JK*

In order to accommodate the busing of high school students to Sedgewick, the principal at the Allan Johnstone School has requested permission to have a four-day school week, effective September 2008, which would alleviate the problems associated with the early arrival before school and the later arrival after school of buses to and from Sedgewick. 2007

Trustees requested that administration explore the viability of this request and provide further information at a later meeting.

Ms Johnson left the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FEES 2007-08

#27/07

H. SYED – That, for the 2007-08 school year, the Board maintains the instructional materials fees at the same rate as for the 2006-07 school year, which are:

That, for the 2006-07 school year, the instructional materials fees be as follows:

- a) for grades 1 - 9, \$50.00,
- b) for grades 10 - 12 students carrying a course load of 30+ credits (15+ credits per semester), \$100.00 (\$50.00 per semester), and includes charges for novels, workbooks and authorized CTS resources,
- c) for grades 10 - 12 students taking fewer than 30 credits (fewer than 15 credits per semester), \$3.50 per credit,
- d) that additional fees may be levied as necessary for the purchase of music, band instrument rental, the purchase of copyrighted material for drama, CTS project materials, and for materials needed by students registered in home economics and industrial arts courses;

That, for the 2006-07 school year, for high school students with a full course load (30+ credits) who leave the Battle River Regional Division #31 during the school year, fees be refunded according to the following schedule:

September	\$90.00
October	\$80.00
November	\$70.00
December	\$60.00
January	\$50.00
February	\$40.00
March	\$30.00
April, May and June	\$ 0.00;

*JK
JK*

That for students with a partial load (less than 30 credits) who leave the jurisdiction during the course of the school year, fees be reimbursed at a rate of 10% of their fee per month to March 31, 2007;

That, for the 2006-07 school year, for elementary and junior high students who leave the Battle River Regional Division #31 during the school year, fees be refunded according to the following schedule:

September	\$45.00
October	\$40.00
November	\$35.00
December	\$30.00
January	\$25.00
February	\$20.00
March	\$15.00
April, May and June	\$ 0.00;

That, for the 2006-07 school year, for high school students with a full course load (30+ credits), who enter the Battle River Regional Division #31 during the school year, fees be levied according to the following schedule:

September	\$100.00
October	\$ 90.00
November	\$ 80.00
December	\$ 70.00
January	\$ 60.00
February	\$ 50.00
March	\$ 40.00
April	\$ 30.00
May	\$ 20.00
June	\$ 10.00

That, for students with a partial load (less than 30 credits) who enter the jurisdiction during the course of the school year, fees be levied at a rate of 10% of their fee per month.

That, for the 2006-07 school year, for elementary and junior high students who enter the Battle River Regional Division #31 during the school year, fees be levied according to the following schedule:

September	\$50.00
October	\$45.00
November	\$40.00
December	\$35.00
January	\$30.00
February	\$25.00
March	\$20.00
April	\$15.00
May	\$10.00
June	\$ 5.00

CARRIED

M.
BH

Trustees directed administration to further explore the total packet of school fees, including the instructional materials fees.

AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2007-08

#28/07 C. SMITH – That the 2007-08 school year calendar be amended to reflect a change of the professional development day from October 9, 2007 to September 21, 2007 in order to facilitate procuring the services of the guest speaker.

CARRIED

TOFIELD HOCKEY PROGRAM

#29/07 R. HEIBERG – That the Board grants approval for the Tofield Hockey program to operate for the 2007-08 school year.

CARRIED

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 10:44 a.m. and reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND TRIP TO MEXICO

Dr. Phillips reported on his trip, and that of Max Lindstrand, Principal at Camrose Composite High School, to Mexico with Alberta Education with respect to the international students project, for the purpose of attracting international students, and specifically Mexican students on this trip, to attend schools in Battle River School Division #31.

PUBLIC INTEREST ALBERTA FORUM SPONSORSHIP

Chairman Herder reported on a letter she received from the Public Interest Alberta (PIA) organization requesting financial sponsorship for a forum entitled 'A More Democratic Alberta – Making it Happen' scheduled for March 23, 2007 at the Camrose and District Seniors Center. The writer further queried, that whether or not financial sponsorship is given, would the Board assist in promoting the event.

#30/07 G. OBERG – That the Board provides its support of the "A More Democratic Alberta – Making it Happen" event by sending out promotional materials to high schools.

CARRIED

BOARD/ADMINISTRATORS' WORKSHOP FOLLOW-UP

Trustees provided their comments with respect to the Board/Administrators' workshop held on February 22 and 23, 2007 in Red Deer.

Trustees will work on their Three-Year Plan priorities before discussing the budget to facilitate the budget process.

Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, joined the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR DIVISION ONE

#31/07 V. PETRUK – That the site-based decision making formula for the allocation in Division One be adjusted so that the funds that have been previously provided for Division One from the Class Size Funding through the Classroom Learning Conditions Fund be allocated to all Division One programs.

CARRIED

Ms Walsh left the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 1:09 p.m.

LEARNING TOGETHER PROGRAM

For Trustee information, Dr. Phillips noted that there are some concerns with respect to the day care at the Learning Together program, and that solutions are being investigated.

EDWIN PARR TEACHER AWARD NOMINATION

#32/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board nominates Jaymie Beveridge, first year teacher at Viking School, for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award nomination.

CARRIED

ROSALIND SCHOOL VIDEO-CONFERENCING SUITE

#33/07 P. ZENIUK – That the Board approves the allocation of \$22,000 from the Board Contingency Fund for the purchases needed for the Rosalind School Video-Conferencing Suite.

CARRIED

ELECTION 2007

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte noted that Battle River School Division #31 usually conducts its school board elections in tandem with the City of Camrose and the Counties of Beaver, Camrose and Flagstaff. Mr. Schulte noted that more information about the elections will be provided at a later date.

REQUEST FROM C W SEARS SCHOOL

#34/07 H. SYED – That, subject to review by Division Office administration, the Board provides \$2500 from the Board Innovations Fund for the facilitator's fee for the teambuilding workshop scheduled for that school in August 2007.

CARRIED

CAMROSE PARENTS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

At 1:35 p.m., Chairman Herder welcome Lowell Befus to the meeting and invited his presentation.

Mr. Befus, resident in the City of Camrose, spoke on behalf of the Camrose Parents for Christian Education requesting Board consideration for the establishment of a Christian School as an alternative program in Camrose.

Mr. Befus left the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

CAMROSE ADULT READ AND WRITE

At 1:59 p.m., Chairman Herder welcomed David Samm and Pam Moski, from the Camrose Adult Read and Write Program, to the meeting and invited their presentation.

The Camrose Adult Read and Write Program and Family Literacy Program plan an event for May 2, 2007 to help raise awareness of literacy as a whole and to officially launch the development of Camrose Literacy – a charitable society dedicated to the further development of literacy programs within Camrose and surrounding area. Ms Moski requested Board support in the form of funding for this event.

Mr. Samm and Ms Moski left the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

CAMROSE PARENTS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (continued)

#35/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board establishes a committee of four Trustees and the Superintendent of Schools, or designate, to further investigate the request to establish a Christian School as an alternative program in Camrose, that the members of this Committee be paid for each meeting, and further that the results of the findings be reported to the Board.

CARRIED

Chairman Herder requested volunteers to serve on this Committee.

Trustees Oberg, Zeniuk, Heiberg and Vice-Chair Smith volunteered to serve on the committee to investigate the request to establish a Christian School as an alternative program in Camrose.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:44 p.m. and reconvened at 2:58 p.m.

CAMROSE ADULT READ AND WRITE (continued)

- #36/07 G. OBERG – That the Board provides \$750 from the Board Innovations Fund to assist the Camrose Adult Read and Write program to raise the awareness of literacy.

CARRIED

STOP THE VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

Trustees reviewed information from the 'Stop the Violence' Forum hosted by Battle River School Division #31 on February 9, 2007. Trustees indicated that if a task force is established to work in this area, it must include agencies from all four wards in the school division. Another meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. at the Camrose Community Center.

Trustee Heiberg will attend this meeting on behalf of the Board.

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE BARBARA COLOROSO PRESENTATION

The Victims of Family Violence Committee has invited Barbara Coloroso, well-known speaker, to facilitate a presentation scheduled for March 27, 2007. The Board was asked to contribute some funds to assist in bringing this speaker to Camrose.

- #37/07 G. OBERG – That the Board provides \$1000 from the Board Innovations Fund for support of the anti-bullying presentation by Barbara Coloroso.

CARRIED

UPDATE ON CURRENT INITIATIVES

Dr. Phillips provided an update on current initiatives noting the following three: one-to-one mobile computing, rural Alberta Development Fund, and Community Resource Officer in Flagstaff Ward.

Dr. Phillips noted that visits to three schools with the high school teachers has taken place and meetings are scheduled for parents and students with the three school communities participating in the one-to-one mobile computing initiative. Dr. Phillips also noted that funding from the Rural Alberta Development Fund has been denied.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The information items were circulated to Trustees is a folder during the meeting.

Report on Teleconference, Education Property Tax

Chairman Herder reported on her participation in a teleconference on February 7, 2007 with respect to the education property tax.

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JH

Consultative Meeting Report

Trustee Oberg reported on a meeting with the governing officials from the County of Flagstaff as part of the consultative process.

'Parents Connecting', Drug Response Task Force

Vice-Chair Smith noted that a poster is included in the information folder about support meetings that are held twice a month for parents whose children are using illegal drugs.

The suggestion was made that schools include this poster in their newsletters to ensure that parents are informed of this support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Student Affairs Committee

The members of the Student Affairs Committee met on February 21, 2007 to hear a recommendation for expulsion. The Committee upheld the recommendation for expulsion.

Executive Committee

The members of the Executive Committee met on February 26, 2007 to set the agenda for today's meeting and also worked on the planning for the Board/Administrators' workshop as well as the consultative meetings.

Capital Planning Committee

Members of the Capital Planning Committee attended the Council of Educational Facility Planners International spring conference and annual general meeting held at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise on March 5-7, 2007. Several of the Committee members also attended a site meeting at Charlie Killam School on March 9, 2007.

Policy Development/Review Committee

The meeting of the Policy Development/Review Committee, which met on March 1, 2007, was a focus group on Healthy Life Styles and involved staff representation from each ward in Battle River School Division #31.

Small Schools Committee

Chairman Herder reported on a meeting of the Small Schools Committee held on February 28, 2007 in preparation for upcoming meetings with parents and students.

Administrators' Meeting

Vice-chair Smith reported on her attendance at the Administrators' meeting held on February 13, 2007.

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'Learning Together' Steering Committee

Trustee Petruk reported on his attendance at a meeting of the 'Learning Together' program steering committee held on February 14, 2007.

Student Achievement

Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Student Achievement committee held on February 26, 2007.

ASBA Zone 4

The next ASBA Zone 4 meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2007 with discussion of the ASBA Governance Review on the agenda.

Public School Boards Association of Alberta (PSBAA)

Chairman Herder noted that the next meeting of the Public School Boards Council is scheduled for March 22-24, 2007, with education property tax and strategic objectives of PSBAA on the agenda.

Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan (ASEBP)

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte reported on his attendance at a Board of Directors meeting held on February 16, 2007.

MOTION TO CONTINUE BEYOND 5:00 P.M.

#38/07 V. PETRUK – That the Board meeting continue beyond 5:00 p.m. CARRIED

Drug Response Task Force

Vice-chair Smith reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Drug Response Task Force held on February 25, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chairman Herder adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.



BRENDA HERDER, CHAIRMAN



WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

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