

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2006,  
COMMENCING AT 9:30 A.M.**

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**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

**ALSO PRESENT**

WARREN PHILLIPS, Superintendent of Schools  
RAY BOSH, Deputy Superintendent  
BILL SCHULTE, Secretary-Treasurer  
TIM CHAMBERLIN, Communications Officer  
SYLVIA LAUBER, Recording Secretary

**B. HERDER IN THE CHAIR**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

#1/06 K OFFORD – That the agenda be approved with the addition of the following item:

5.2 Consultative Process

CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

#2/06 H. SYED - That the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 8, 2005 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

**CONSULTATIVE PROCESS**

Rick Jarrett, Division Principal, joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m. for a discussion on the consultative process.

A draft of a letter to School Councils was reviewed, as well as key messages that will be discussed when Trustees and Division Office administrators meet with School Councils.

Mr. Jarrett left the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

**IN-CAMERA SESSION (10:08 a.m.)**

#3/06 K. OFFORD – That the regular meeting recess to permit the Trustees to meet in-camera, and that all persons except Trustees, Superintendent of Schools Phillips, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte, and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

Brenda Johnson, Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 10:32 a.m. and left at 11:07 a.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 11:47 a.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 11:47 a.m.

**SUPPORT STAFF SALARY INCREASES**

#4/06 H. SYED – That the Board accepts the recommendations of senior administration with respect to salary increases to support staff, and further that the recommendations be attached to, and forms a part of, these minutes.

CARRIED

**TRANSITION TO RETIREMENT**

Trustees engaged in a discussion with respect to transition to retirement for teachers.

**EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

Trustees were informed that emerging technologies are becoming a part of classrooms and, at this time, staff are not very well versed on the use of these technologies, therefore a literature review study of emerging technologies was recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. As an example, Dr. Phillips cited that cell phones can now access the Internet, do text messaging, etc. and, although these can be a good communication tool, these features have become problematic with students using text messaging during class time. Dr. Phillips questioned if there are ways of promoting the use of these technologies in the classroom.

**MEETING RECESS**

The regular meeting recessed at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened at 1:01 p.m.

**VIDEO-CONFERENCING**

Mr. Ray Bosh, Deputy Superintendent, reviewed a proposal for video-conferencing submitted to Alberta Education, noting that Battle River School Division #31 has received \$100,000 for video-conferencing. Mr.

Bosh noted that Forestburg, Viking and New Norway Schools will be the initial install of video-conferencing materials, starting in February. Mr. Bosh further noted that the Division Office is also a video-conferencing suite and is now fully functional. Battle River School Division #31 will be hosting a video-conference on Friday, January 12, 20, and February 3 and 10, 2006.

**REVISIONS TO 2005-06 BUDGET**

#5/06 H. SYED – That the Board approves the revisions to the 2005-06 budget as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, and further that these recommendations be attached to, and forms a part of, these minutes.

CARRIED

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Ms Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, joined the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

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**INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS COUNCIL (PSBC) OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA (PSBAA)**

Trustees reviewed a letter from PSBAA inviting their participation in the first meeting of 2006 of the Public School Boards Council on February 2-4, 2006 at the Executive Royal Inn in Nisku.

#6/06 V. PETRUK – That the Board sends a representative to the Public School Boards Council on February 2-4, 2006 in Nisku.

CARRIED

Trustee Oberg will attend the above-noted meeting.

**PRESENTATION – ALLIANCE SCHOOL PARENTS AND COMMUNITY**

At 1:30 p.m., Chairman Herder welcomed a delegation from the Alliance School and community and invited their presentation.

Ms Joannie Zimmer, Principal at Alliance School, introduced the delegation.

Ms Raylene Bateman spoke on behalf of the School Council and requested that the Board considers keeping the school open for at least the next five years mainly because of the long distance for young children to an alternate school. She noted that projected enrolments for the next five years is between 13-14 students each year.

Ms Zimmer reviewed enrolments, budget, and achievement results, noting that the Alliance School is truly a multi-age school with many benefits. She noted the incredible support she receives from the school community. She also emphasized the support and cooperation with the ECS and pre-school in the community.

Ms Muriel Fankhanel, Mayor of the Village of Alliance, spoke on behalf of the Village and indicated the necessity of keeping the school in the community, noting that the Alliance community could not do all that it would like to do without the school. She noted the Alliance is a member of the Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED), and that Alliance is a community on the move with lots being sold and homes being built. The community needs a school in order to attract people with children and because the school is on the cutting edge of multi-age programming.

Chairman Herder thanked the delegation for their presentations and for coming to the Board meeting. She commended them for the respectful attitude displayed at all the meetings held with the Board and administration.

The delegation left the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

**ALLIANCE SCHOOL**

Date/Location for the Public Meeting at Alliance

The Board determined that the date for the public meeting at Alliance will be February 8 or 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alliance Community Hall.

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Ms Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, left the meeting at 2:27 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

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**RESCIND NOTICE OF MOTION #238/05 - ALLIANCE SCHOOL**

#7/06 G. OBERG – That the Board rescinds notice of motion #238/05, which states:

“That, pursuant to the provisions of Policy FL and in compliance with the procedures outlined in Policy FL, the Board serve notice of its intention to consider the following motion at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held in April, 2006:

Motion:

“That, since the September 30, 2005, enrolment at the Alliance School is below the Critical Minimum Enrolment of 50 pupils established in Policy FL, the Alliance School be closed as of June 30, 2006.

#8/06 V. PETRUK – That motion #7/06 be postponed until the date of the special meeting called on January 19, 2006 at 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED

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Ms Walsh left the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

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**MEETING RECESS**

The regular meeting recessed at 3:14 p.m. and reconvened at 3:31 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATORS'/BOARD WORKSHOP, MARCH 2 AND 3, 2006**

The Administrators'/Board workshop will be held on March 2 and 3, 2006 at the Mayfield Inn & Suites.

Chairman Herder and Vice-Chairman Smith will serve on the planning committee for the workshop.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

Deputy Superintendent Bosh noted that there are policies/procedures that need to be in place for special education programming, testing, evaluation, appeals, etc.

#9/06

K. OFFORD – That the new policies with respect to special education be referred to the Policy Development/Review Committee.

CARRIED

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Dr. Larry Payne, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting a 3:41 p.m.

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**SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS – 2006-07 AND 2007-08**

It was noted that the ATA Liaison Committee requested some changes to the 2006-07 school year calendar, specifically that the Christmas break begin on December 25, 2006 and end on January 8, 2007, rather than December 21<sup>st</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup> respectively. The current 2006-07 school year calendar was approved on the basis of the scheduling of the diploma exams. Before a decision will be made with respect to the 2006-07 school year calendar, teachers of diploma exam courses this year will be surveyed to determine if the schedule this year was detrimental in any way to the students writing.

Dr. Payne will also review the 2007-08 school year calendar for possible amendment and bring this forward to the next Board meeting.

**LEARNING TOGETHER PROGRAM – SPACE FOR DAY CARE**

Trustees were informed that there are a number of new students who would like to register in the Learning Together Program, however the current space for day care is not adequate. Dr. Phillips suggested several possibilities that will be explored.

Dr. Payne left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

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**ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT SUMMARY**

Trustees each received a binder of data on the accountability pillar data for Battle River School Division #31 at a meeting with Alberta Education in Red Deer on January 11, 2006.

Dr. Phillips noted that the summary form provides valuable information.

**ALBERTA HOME AND SCHOOL COUNCILS ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP (AHSCA)**

Michele Mulder, Executive Director of the Alberta Home and School Councils Association, provided a presentation at the Alberta School Boards Association, Zone 4, meeting with respect to workshops that AHSCA provides for School Councils. These are provided at a nominal cost to School Councils.

A letter will be sent to the School Councils to determine their interest in attending a workshop.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY MANUAL**

Members of the Policy Development/Review Committee reviewed possible changes to the Policy Manual.

#10/06 C. SMITH – That the following policies be deleted:

- GBE – ‘HIV/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)’
- GBN – ‘Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) Plan’
- GDBDA – ‘Staff Participation in Jury Duty’
- HGBO – ‘Accelerated Core Team’
- HGCZ – ‘Distance Education’
- HIBD – ‘School Libraries’

CARRIED

#11/06 C. SMITH – That whereas the Policy Development/Review Committee has determined that there are substantive changes needed, we recommend that Board/Administration committees be struck to look at each of the following policies:

- CAB – ‘Site-Based Decision Making
- EEAD(3) – ‘Safe Grad’
- HK – ‘Student Evaluation’

CARRIED

#12/06 C. SMITH – That, as noted on the Policy Revision document, the policies as indicated be referred to Administration with the understanding that they will be brought back to the Policy Development/Review Committee.

CARRIED

#13/06 C. SMITH – That policy FL ‘School/Program Closure’ be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Capital Planning Committee

#14/06 G. OBERG – That the Board expends, from Infrastructure Maintenance Program funding, \$18,000 to replace the intercom system at the New Norway School.

CARRIED

#15/06 G. OBERG – That the Board expends, from Infrastructure Maintenance Program funding, \$17,500 to replace the intercom system at the Bashaw School.

CARRIED

#16/06 G. OBERG – That the Board expends, from Infrastructure Maintenance Program funding, \$5,000 for renovations to the physical education offices at Central High-Sedgewick Public School.

CARRIED

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee members met on December 20, 2005 to work with Mr. Rick Jarrett, Division Principal, on the consultative process and later that day, to set the agenda for this meeting.

ASBA Zone 4

The next meeting of the ASBA Zone 4 is scheduled for January 23, 2006 in Red Deer.

Alberta School Employees Benefit Program (ASEBP)

There is a meeting of the ASEBP Board of Directors on January 20, 2006. Trustees were informed that, at this time, Battle River School Division #31 is in a discount position with ASEBP.

Drug Response Task Force

Vice-Chairman Smith reported on her attendance at the Drug Response Task Force meeting and noted that a parent mentoring evening is scheduled for February 1, 2006.

Performing Arts Center

Vice-Chairman Smith reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Performing Arts Center and noted that, as yet, no location for this Center has been determined.

Administrators' Meeting

Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at the Administrators' Meeting held on January 10, 2006.

ATA Liaison

It was noted that the ATA Liaison Committee met on December 12, 2005, and that grade level achievement and the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school year calendars were discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chairman Herder adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

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BRENDA HERDER, CHAIRMAN

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WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

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