

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BATTLE RIVER REGIONAL DIVISION #31, HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2005, COMMENCING AT 9:31 A.M.

PRESENT

REBECCA HEIBERG (joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.)
BRENDA HERDER
GERRY OBERG (left the meeting at 4:23 p.m.)
KEN OFFORD (joined the meeting at 9:35 a.m.)
VICTOR PETRUK
CHERYL SMITH
HAMEED SYED
PATRICIA ZENIUK (joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.)

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

#254/05 H. SYED – That the agenda be approved with the addition of the items noted on the distributed ‘add-on’ sheet, and the following item:

6.12 Transportation Report

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

#255/05 V. PETRUK – That the minutes from the regular meeting held on November 9 and 29, 2005 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

IN-CAMERA SESSION (9:34 a.m.)

#256/05 C. SMITH – 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

Imogene Walsh, Finance Manager, and Greg Wood, Auditor with Harberg Nikiforuk Wood Chartered Accountants, joined the meeting at 9:39 a.m. and left the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 12:01 p.m. and the regular meeting reconvened at 12:01 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened at 1:06 p.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION (1:07 p.m.)

#257/05 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, Deputy Superintendent Bosh, Secretary-Treasurer Schulte and Recording Secretary Lauber be excluded.

CARRIED

Trustee Smith rejoined the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

The in-camera session recessed at 1:41 p.m.

RE-ALLOCATION OF 2004-05 INCREASES IN RESERVE FUNDS

#258/05 H. SYED – That the Board approves the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools with respect to the re-allocation of the 2004-05 increases in reserve funds, which states:

“That \$176,500 from the non-designated instruction reserve be transferred to a new reserve to cover the anticipated shortfall for the AISI project, which has occurred because Battle River School Division #31 has maintained the staffing level for this project, even though the revenue decreased because the enrolment declined.

That \$50,000 from the non-designated instruction reserve be transferred to a new reserve to cover the anticipated shortfall for the *Learning Together* program.

That \$100,000 from the non-designated administration reserve be transferred to the *Administration – Computer/Copier Reserve*.

That \$102,933 from the non-designated administration reserve be transferred to the *Administration – Building Repair and Maintenance Reserve*.”

CARRIED

RESERVE FUNDS

#259/05 V. PETRUK – That the Board establishes the following reserve in Operations and Maintenance – *Playgrounds*, in the amount of \$7,000.
CARRIED

#260/05 G. OBERG – That the Board establishes the following reserve in Instruction – *Declining Enrolments*, in the amount of \$60,490.
CARRIED

APPROVAL OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

#261/05 H. SYED – That the Board approves the 2004-05 Audited Financial Statement as presented.
CARRIED

NON-CERTIFICATED SUPPORT STAFF

#262/05 C. SMITH – That the Board requests Division Office administrators to bring forward a plan to bring the salary increases for non-teaching staff to be more in line with those in surrounding jurisdictions.
CARRIED

SALARY, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT – PLANNING AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

#263/05 H. SYED – That, effective September 1, 2005, the Assistant Superintendent – Planning and System Improvement, be placed on the same salary grid as the Assistant Superintendent – Personnel.
CARRIED

ANNUAL EDUCATION RESULTS REPORT 2004-05

Dr. Larry Payne, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting at 1:48 p.m. and presented the completed Annual Education Results Report 2004-05.

#264/05 K. OFFORD – That the Board approves the 2004-05 Annual Education Results Report as presented.
CARRIED

Dr. Payne left the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

DIPLOMA TUTORIALS

Trustees reviewed a letter received from a parent with a request for payment by the Division of the diploma tutorials offered by Castle Rock Research Corp.

#265/05 G. OBERG – That the Superintendent of Schools communicate by letter that the Board declines to pay for diploma tutorial services offered by Castle Rock Research Corp.
CARRIED

LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSE – OUTDOOR EDUCATION 15

#266/05 R. HEIBERG – That Outdoor Education 15, as developed by Black Gold School Division, be offered as a Locally Authorized Course in Battle River School Division #31 schools during the second semester of the 2005-06 school year.

CARRIED

LETTER FOR ALLIANCE SCHOOL PARENTS

Trustees reviewed a draft letter to parents of students in the Alliance School with respect to the possible closure of the Alliance School at the end of this school year.

ADVOCACY MEETINGS

Chairman Herder mentioned that it is important that Trustees touch base with municipal officers with respect to a discussion on education taxation and other key education issues. The Communications Committee will meet in January 2006 to determine key messages to take to the various councils in the Division.

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

A committee met on December 2, 2005 to discuss the set up of processes with respect to consultation with stakeholders during the 2005-06 school year. The discussion at this meeting was shared with Trustees.

Trustees agreed that each would attend one parent council meeting at each of the schools in their section of the ward with the specific purpose of bringing information and receiving feedback on designated priorities; and that one student forum will be planned in the spring of 2006 with student representatives from junior and senior high schools in Battle River School Division #31 to receive information and provide feedback to the Board on featured priorities.

SMALL URBAN BOARDS STUDY

Chairman Herder informed Trustees that she is serving on a steering committee of the Alberta School Boards Association with respect to the Small Urban Boards study. The study is just beginning and will be data driven. Ms Herder sought feedback from Trustees with respect to the issues/concerns surrounding small urban boards, which, in the end, will lead to a position paper.

Several issues surfaced, namely: growth areas and modernization funding; how to allocate funds/resources to schools when there is an economy of scale in one place and a small school in another place within the Division.

ADMINISTRATORS/BOARD WORKSHOP – MARCH 2 AND 3, 2006

Trustees considered several locations for the Administrators'/Board Workshop with further suggestions. This will be researched.

MEETING RECESS

The regular meeting recessed at 2:59 p.m. and reconvened at 3:13 p.m.

AISI CONFERENCE

Trustees received information with respect to the upcoming AISI Conference.

Trustees Oberg, Heiberg, Herder, Petruk, Zeniuk, and perhaps Offord, expressed interest in attending.

REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY PILLAR MEETINGS

Personnel from Battle River School Division #31 is scheduled to meet on January 11, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. with Alberta Education with respect to the regional accountability pillar meetings.

COLLEGE OF ALBERTA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS (CASS) PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

Dr. Phillips reported that CASS has been working to become a professional organization. Dr. Phillips distributed information with respect to this action and noted that CASS is seeking support from the school divisions.

#267/05 H. SYED – That the Board supports the concept of the College of Alberta School Superintendents becoming a professional organization.
CARRIED

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Ms Deb Howeihe, Assistant Director of Transportation, joined the meeting at 3:32 p.m. to present the report from the Director of Transportation.

#268/05 C. SMITH – That, notwithstanding motion #177/99, which reads “That, for the 1999-2000 school year, the rate for Parent-Provided Transportation be established at \$.35 per kilometer traveled, with a minimum payment of \$6.00 per day and a maximum payment of \$50.00 per day”; the Board approves mileage expense of \$.42/km for every kilometer driven, to provide transportation for two students to alternative programming.
CARRIED

Ms Howeihe left the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Construction Craft Laborer Program

Dr. Phillips reported on a meeting with several administrators from Camrose Composite High School (CCHS) and with Rick Butler from Lokken Career Training to discuss the feasibility of Lokken Career Training Centre offering career training courses to adult clients in the occupational area of CCHS. Part of this training would occur at CCHS after regular school hours. This was received as information at this time.

Follow-Up to School Facility Evaluations

Bill Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer, reported on a letter received from Alberta Infrastructure with respect to four schools in Battle River School Division #31 that are receiving school facility evaluations this year.

National Congress on Rural Education

The National Congress on Rural Education will be held in Saskatoon on March 26-28, 2006. Dr. Phillips inquired with respect to the possibility of submitting a proposal for a presentation at the Congress.

Other Information Items

The remainder of the information items were circulated during the Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee had an agenda meeting via telephone on November 30, 2005 and met as part of the Consultative Process committee on December 2, 2005.

Policy Development/Review Committee

The Policy Development/Review Committee set the following dates with respect to meetings with Dr. Leroy Sloan, ASBA, for the purpose of reviewing and revising the Policy Manual: January 18 and April 25, 2006.

ASBA Report – Zone 4

Trustee Oberg reported on his attendance at the ASBA Zone 4 meeting in Wetaskiwin on November 28, 2005.

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

2006-07 Budget Input – ASBA

The Alberta School Boards Association (provincial) is requesting input from school boards on the 2006-07 budget by identifying strategic priorities or initiatives that warrant expenditure of association dollars.

ASEBP

The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alberta School Employees Benefit Plan is scheduled for December 16, 2005.

Drug Response Task Force

Vice-Chairman Smith reported that the next group meeting of the Drug Response Task Force is December 16, 2005.

Performing Arts Center

The next meeting of the Performing Arts Center Committee is scheduled for December 9, 2005.

Administrators' Meeting

The next Administrators' Meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2005.

ATA Liaison Committee

The ATA Liaison Committee is scheduled to meet on December 12, 2005 at the Norsemen Inn.

Communication Liaison Committee

Trustee Heiberg reported on the work of the Communication Liaison Committee.

#269/05

C. SMITH – That the Board directs the Communication Officer to extend Christmas greetings on behalf of the Board with a budget up to \$700 plus GST.

CARRIED

Trustee Oberg left the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Safe and Caring Steering Committee

Vice-Chairman Smith reported on her attendance at a session in Stettler facilitated by Dr. Brokenleg with respect to safe and caring schools.

Student Achievement Committee

Chairman Herder reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Student Achievement Committee held on December 5, 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

All items of business being complete and there being no dissent, Chairman Herder adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

BRENDA HERDER, CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM SCHULTE, SECRETARY-TREASURER

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